

Cooked meats bring out Soviet voters in droves



President Gorbachev casting his vote yesterday

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY
IN MOSCOW

ONE of the chief incentives for casting a vote in the Soviet Union — the table in the polling hall laden with cooked meats, fruit and sweets for sale without ration coupons — was already stripped bare by mid-afternoon yesterday in many parts of the country. That was certainly the case at the sanatorium of Communist Party veterans on the edge of Peredelkino, a village just outside Moscow, where staff had exchanged their white coats for their Sunday best to register the voters, most of whom they knew by name in their main hall.

Across the Soviet Union, people turned out in their millions, some attracted no doubt by the delicacies on sale, to vote in the nationwide referendum on the continued unity of the country, the Kremlin's first exercise in popular consultation. In spite of calls from radical and nationalist groups for a boycott and the refusal of six republics to hold the referendum at all, the turnout elsewhere was high, boding well for a convincing vote in favour of President Gorbachev's "renewed federation of equal sovereign republics". Mr Gorbachev, who has staked his future as Soviet leader, on a decisive "yes" vote, said after casting his ballot in an elite district in Moscow's Lenin Hills that the disintegration of the Soviet Union would

be a catastrophe for the country, for Europeans and for the world. The glorious early spring day brought out Muscovites in their thousands to express what was billed on delicate blue street banners as their "historic choice". By late afternoon the turnout in many parts of the city was already more than 70 per cent, surprising and pleasing — the scrutineers who regard a good turnout as a political achievement. "What a pity you did not come at mid-day," said the chairman of the local election commission at a polling station in the heart of central Moscow. "They were

6 The mood was of wonderment that someone was asking their opinion

coming in droves, you could hardly get through the door."

In Peredelkino, a haunt of writers and artists which nestles in silver birch groves, the turnout at two polling stations was between 60 and 70 per cent, and only a few stragglers were still arriving. The predominantly female staff had brought their books and knitting in anticipation of a slow afternoon and evening before they could close at 10pm.

At Peredelkino, as in several other districts of the capital, voters were handed four ballot papers. The all-

union paper contained the standard question about "preserving the USSR as a renewed federation of equal sovereign republics"; the Russian Federation paper asked about the creation of a directly elected Russian presidency; the third asked whether the voter wanted the mayor of Moscow to be directly elected. The fourth was of purely local significance. Voters in Solntsevo district were asked: "Do you think that a shoe factory should be built in this region?"

The mood of voters was various. Some had turned out of a genuine sense that they were participating in the history of their country and demonstrated a sense almost of wonderment that someone was asking their opinion on anything — whether it was the future of the country or a new shoe factory — however convoluted and manipulative the question. Others had come because they always voted, or because they feared that their absence would be noticed or because the party had told them to.

In the grim industrial suburb of Begovskiy, as in many central Moscow constituencies, political parties had for the first time sent observers to monitor proceedings. The Democratic Party of Russia — the most radical registered party which is led by the discordant team of Nikolai Travkin and the chess player, Gary Kasparov — had arranged a rotating

group of observers. Not to be outdone, the Communist Party, too, had dispatched observers.

Anatoli Maksimov, the Democratic observer, said he had been elected by his party branch to be an observer and had seen no irregularities. "Everything is going absolutely according to the book," he said.

Polling staff were universally welcoming. Keen to show off the uniqueness of this first Soviet referendum, they fussed around, allowing the ballot papers to be handled (but not on any account taken away), and pointing to the line of red-curtained booths — identical in every station — as evidence of democracy in action.

Only the voters introduced a note of caution. Where a year ago many had been happy to say how they had voted, this time there was a distinct note of apprehension, and no one wanted to give more than their first name. A few younger devil-may-cares boasted that they had voted "no", but many older people said either "for the Union, of course" or declined to say.

Before voting began, there was a widespread feeling, and not only among traditionally sceptical intellectuals, that the necessary majority would be obtained by fair means or foul. By the time the polls closed at 10 pm, that doubt had not been erased.

High turnout, page 11

End of the road for boy racers of Fords

Teenaged children of Ford executives are to be banned from driving their parents' high-powered company cars, Kevin Eason reports

Ford has stopped all young motorists from driving high performance sports cars used by company employees after a series of serious accidents involving young drivers.

The company has told its 1,700 company car users that drivers under 21 or with fewer than three years' experience should not be allowed behind the wheels of such fast cars as the 130mph Fiesta RS Turbo, the 150mph Sierra RS Cosworth and the executive 2.9-litre Granada model. That effectively bars teenaged children of Ford's company car users from driving high performance models at the centre of controversy over speed.

Ford was one of eight car makers criticised last October by the Consumers' Association for over-emphasising speed and aiming at young drivers in advertising, particularly in publicity for the £11,000 Fiesta XR2i. Ford issued its ban after Robin Squire, Conservative MP for Hornchurch, told the company of an accident in his constituency in which a teenage passenger died in a Ford Granada driven by a 17-year-old friend.

Mr Squire is urging Malcolm Rifkind, the transport secretary, to consider laws to prevent inexperienced drivers from driving cars capable of powerful acceleration and top speeds of twice the 70mph motorway limit.

Among Mr Squire's proposals to the transport department is the ending of free insurance schemes with new cars, such as those offered last year by Ford and Vauxhall. He would also like to see "P" plates on the cars of newly-qualified drivers until they gain experience.

Ford is thought to be the first big firm to ban young drivers from its company cars. The company said: "We believe this is taking a responsible attitude. Cars like the Sierra Cosworth are powerful and require experienced handling so we felt this was a prudent measure."

US rejects Iraqi warplanes plea as rebels close in

By SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WASHINGTON AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

AMERICA yesterday rejected an Iraqi appeal to be allowed to move warplanes around the country. The request, discussed at a desert meeting of military commanders, came as rebels were reported to be 12 miles from Baghdad and preparing to march on the capital.

James Baker, the American Secretary of State, said in a television interview that such aircraft movements would violate the terms of the provisional ceasefire. Several warplanes were seen flying

over Iraq last week and allied commanders warned Baghdad then that if any more moved, they would be shot down.

Washington has already expressed concern about President Saddam Hussein's use of helicopters to fire on rebels across the country, and the refusal to allow fixed-wing aircraft to fly limits his ability to put down the revolt. Mr Baker made clear that Washington would be glad to see the Iraqi defences weakened and did not rule out indirect assistance for the rebels, although the United States was "not in the process now" of providing them with arms.

Saddam claimed in a broadcast to the nation on Saturday that Shia rebels in the south of the country had been defeated and pledged a ruthless crackdown on Kurds in the north. Yesterday, government-run newspapers published their first reports and photographs of the death and destruction in the south, but did not mention the uprising in the north.

Iraqi opposition leaders disputed Saddam's claim to have crushed the rebellion and said that rebel forces were poised to attack Baghdad. Syrian radio, quoting reports from inside Iraq, said that some rebels were about 12 miles from the capital. It spoke of "all-out popular demonstrations" against Saddam there.

Opposition leaders in Beirut said the rebels still held the holy cities of Karbala and Najaf, although 400 people were reported killed when Republican Guard tanks stormed Karbala. Troops loyal to Saddam were also accused of using napalm and mustard gas in battles for Najaf, Amara and Basra. The Iranian news agency reported that the World Health Organisation director-general, Hiroshi Nakajima, had seen refugee children "whose faces were burnt by napalm bombs".

America has threatened to resume air attacks if Iraqi troops use chemical weapons against the rebels, and the

allies are seeking the monitored destruction of Iraq's chemical and biological weapons as one of the conditions for a full ceasefire. President Bush and John Major also agreed at their Bermuda summit on Saturday that Iraqi oil revenues should be channelled into war reparations for Kuwait and that sanctions should be maintained.

Both leaders reiterated their desire to see Saddam thrown from power. Asked about the Iraqi leader's promise of political reform and multi-party elections, Mr Bush said: "His credibility is zilch, zero, zed." Mr Major said Saddam was unfit to govern. "One would hope his country would have the sense to replace him."

That view was echoed by Jalal Talabani, head of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan in Damascus. "Saddam should resign," he said. "If he has the least interest in preserving Iraq, he should resign today rather than tomorrow." His claim of victory against the southern uprising was "as true as his claim that he scored a victory against the allies in the Mother of Battles". More than 95 per cent of Kurdish areas in Iraq were controlled by rebels and fierce fighting was raging "to liberate the remaining parts".

Mr Talabani said that the world's top-ranking Shia scholar had declared a holy war against Saddam, although that was not confirmed by Muslim sources. Ayatollah Taqi al-Mudarresi, head of the Shia Islamic Action Organisation, said the uprising covered 26 cities and more than 60 per cent of northern Iraq. He denounced Saddam's promises of democracy as "flagrant lies that should not deceive anybody. We challenge Saddam Hussein to organise a referendum among the Iraqis on his rule and we are sure he would not find more than 20 people to support him."

US troops stay, page 8
Letters, page 11



Middleman: Ashdown addressing the Liberal Democrat conference yesterday

Ashdown ready to do deal

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

PADDY Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, hinted yesterday that his party would be ready to do a deal with a minority Conservative government in a hung parliament.

He acknowledged that the passing of Margaret Thatcher had introduced a welcome new tone to British politics and said that his party could now revert to its traditional position of equidistance between the two main parties. Previously he had insisted that his party's prime task would be the removal of Thatcherism. Now he was open to deals with either main party on the grounds of policy, not personalities. Mr Ashdown made clear, however, that his party would not contemplate a deal without

the promise of legislation to introduce electoral reform. He said at the end of his party's spring conference in Nottingham that he would not settle for a Speaker's conference or a national referendum on proportional representation. It would have to be a bill, although he did not lay down a timetable.

Earlier, in his closing speech, Mr Ashdown said that the Liberal Democrat by-election successes at Eastbourne and Ribblesdale had seen off Mrs Thatcher and got rid of the poll tax. "At the general election, Liberal Democrats will get rid of the political system that made both of them possible."

Mr Ashdown's new policy of equidistance carries risks.

Simon Hughes, MP for Bermondsey who said "almost categorically" in September that the Liberal Democrats would not work with the Tories after an election, said yesterday that many Liberal Democrat candidates would presume that a deal with the Tories was less likely than one with Labour, who were making more progress on electoral reform.

He said: "If a majority Tory government were defeated the electorate wouldn't want another Tory government by another name. It is logical to look first at another alternative." However, Mr Ashdown said: "We are not ruling out a deal with the Tories."

Analysis, page 2
Tory deal, page 10

Yugoslavia at brink

Serbia's decision to leave Yugoslavia's collective presidency put it on a collision course with Croatia, as both reinforced police and called up reservists. Pages 7, 18

Lane defended

Senior judges and other leading figures in the legal establishment united in defence of Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, in the face of calls by more than 100 MPs for his resignation over the Birmingham Six case. Page 2

Police plea

Britain's police could do more if budgets were decentralised to allow senior officers greater freedom, according to an Audit Commission report. Page 4

Fashion assault

New York fashion king Oscar de la Renta has taken a team of 20 with him to Paris to challenge French designers with a show tomorrow. Page 14

2,000 sacked

Almost 2,000 employees of Air Europe were dismissed after International Leisure Group administrators decided the airline's sale in the next few days was unlikely. Page 19

Arsenal at top

Kevin Campbell scored both goals as Arsenal regained their place at the top of the first division with a 2-0 win over Leeds United. Page 32

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Fairway fortune from the canny Auchterlonies

By KERRY GILL



WILLIE and Laurie Auchterlonie, the father and son who were professionals and club makers at the Royal and Ancient Golf Club, St Andrews, had a talent for spotting a future collector's piece. Their collection of 23 golf clubs, each believed to have belonged to a past Open champion, is expected to fetch close to £1 million at auction this summer.

The clubs, it appears, were amassed with the minimum of outlay. Willie, later followed by Laurie, would side up to an Open winner and ask for one of his clubs as a memento of the occasion. In the flush of victory, the champion would hand over a wood or an iron without a moment's hesitation. The canny Auchterlonies — son Laurie died in 1985 — gradually built up their hoard which has ever since been known as the

Auchterlonie Collection. It is considered to be the most important single collection of golfing memorabilia in the world. The clubs reputedly belonged to a variety of Open winners between 1860 and 1930. As a reflection of their importance Sotheby's will auction them at a sale in Chester to coincide with the 1991 British Open at the Royal Birkdale, Southport, along with other golfing memorabilia. The sale will include the original book manuscript relating the history of the Royal and Ancient written by J.A.S. Carson, but which was turned down for publication by Max Reinhardt. Items from the sale are to be exhibited in Tokyo and New York.

Asked about the provenance of the Auchterlonie's collection, Michael Bonallack, secretary of the Royal and Ancient, said: "We have no idea whether they are authentic or not. We have no idea who the clubs belonged to." But according to Sotheby's, Laurie's widow has been prepared to provide written confirmation that the clubs each belonged to a former Open champion. There is no doubt over one of the clubs, a long iron. It was owned by Willie himself who won the British Open in 1893.

Before his death Laurie gave the collection to the present seller, who wishes to remain anonymous. The oldest club is thought to be a wood owned by Willie Park, who won the Open in 1860, 1863, 1866 and 1875. The collection contains an iron masher used by Jack Hutchinson, of Chicago, who won the Open in 1921, and an iron putter that belonged to Bobby Jones, the American champion in 1926, 1927 and 1930.

The Auchterlonies, however, did not stoop to gathering golf balls, which is a pity. One ball, made by Allan Robertson, of St Andrews, in the 1840s, is expected to fetch up to £10,000.

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Senior judges unite to defend Lord Lane from MPs' motion

By FRANCES GIBB AND SHEILA GUNN

SENIOR judges and other leading figures in the legal establishment have united to defend Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, as he faces calls by more than 100 MPs for his resignation.

The MPs of all parties have taken the rare step of tabling a Commons motion to be published today asking the Queen to remove Lord Lane from office because of his handling of the unsuccessful appeal in 1987 by the Birmingham Six.

Last night Sir Patrick Mayhew, QC, the attorney general, added his voice to the other judges and legal figures supporting Lord Lane. He said: "It is for the Lord Chancellor, as head of the judiciary, to respond to calls for the resignation of the Lord Chief Justice. He did so in his statement on Friday with the strongest expression of confidence in Lord Lane both as a judge and as a man. I warmly agree with what he said."

Lord Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, said yesterday: "Everyone accepts the right of both houses of parliament to petition the Queen for the removal of a judge. But I can see no cause nor justification for it here. A wrong decision has never been adequate grounds for a judge to be made to resign; there would be no judges left."

Roy Hattersley, the shadow home secretary, warned the MPs yesterday that it was not

the job of politicians to tell judges to resign, although they had the right to express individual views. The short-comings, he said, were in the whole judicial system, not in how one man behaved.

The Commons motion provides the MPs with a parliamentary device to protest at Lord Lane's rejection of the 1987 appeal by the six men, Chris Mullin, the Labour MP for Sunderland South who had campaigned for their release, is sponsoring the motion together with Michael Foot, the former Labour leader, Sir David Steel, the former Liberal leader, and the Tory MPs Sir John Farr and Sir Richard Body.

Mr Mullin said that Lord Lane's resignation would be the obvious first step towards restoring public confidence in

the judicial system. Sir John Farr, Conservative MP for Harborough, who met some of the men in Gartree prison in his constituency, said: "Lord Lane is responsible for and has defended the criminal appeals system which is in a state of terrible collapse. He has conducted himself in an arrogant, domineering and impersonal way. I must say I would greatly welcome his departure."

Lord Hailsham, the former Lord Chancellor, described the move by MPs as disgraceful and unconstitutional. "It is fundamental in all civilised countries that the judges should be independent. If they are guilty of disgraceful conduct or go off their heads, that may be different: there is a procedure provided for that."

Former Detective Superintendent George Reade, the man in charge of the Birmingham Six case in 1974, returned to his Staffordshire home at the weekend after travelling abroad on holiday (Stewart Tendler writes).

Last month he was interviewed in Melbourne, Australia, by John Evans, the chief constable of Devon and Cornwall and head of the investigation into the convictions. There was no information yesterday on whether Mr Reade will be seen again.



Mayhew: strong words of support for Lord Lane

Bernard Levin, page 10



Closing ranks: the Queen Mother celebrating St Patrick's day among members of the 1st Battalion the Irish Guards in Berlin yesterday. Throughout Ireland and among Irish communities elsewhere in the world prayers for peace were said at church services as part of an initiative by the cross-border Co-operation Ireland group (Robin Young writes).

The Irish president, Mary Robinson, joined an ecumenical service in St Patrick's cathedral, Dublin. Crowds of about 400,000 watched the annual St Patrick's day parade, involving 6,000 marchers and 100 floats and bands, through the city.

Unionists may reject Brooke ultimatum

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE final offer from Peter Brooke, the Northern Ireland secretary, on the basis of talks about the future government of the province may be unacceptable to Unionists, informed sources said yesterday.

Senior members of the Ulster Unionist Party, speaking for the first time since Mr Brooke issued what amounts to an ultimatum last week, said they feared that the offer insufficiently safeguarded Northern Ireland's position in the United Kingdom. They said that their principal reservations concerned the overall styling of the document which, in their view, erred too far in favour of the nationalist SDLP interpretation of Northern Ireland's constitutional position.

The sources gave the impression that those fundamental differences outweighed any reservations Unionists had about the mechanics of how talks between Dublin and the parties in Northern Ireland might begin, or what form the Unionist delegation would take.

One source said: "I get the feeling that the party (UUP) would like to say yes to the document but fears it might be in a position where it will have to say no." He said there were a number of phrases which were "a bit loose" in the text, and he went on to summarise the overall problem. "Conceptually, the whole thing seems to be on a 32-county basis [ie all of Ireland]. We are asking

the secretary of state for guidance that Her Majesty's Government will be stressing Northern Ireland's position within the UK."

He added that many in the party felt Mr Brooke's that formulations depicted the British government in too neutral a position as if it intended to act only as an enabler or facilitator in negotiations on a problem which had little to do with mainland Britain.

The sources said the first point of difficulty was a reference to Her Majesty's Government and the Republic of Ireland reaffirming that the constitutional status of Northern Ireland would remain unchanged as long as the majority wished to stay within the UK. The Unionists would prefer the references to the Republic to be omitted.

The second area is the phrase which talks about negotiations achieving a better relationship within Northern Ireland, between Northern Ireland and the Republic and, "among the peoples of the island of Ireland."

One source described this as "Homespeak" — a reference to John Hume, the SDLP leader — and indicated concern that the government seemed to be going too far in the direction of an all-Ireland formulation.

The third area is the lack of hard information on the overall timing of talks — the document is believed to give no firm indications of when the process might begin.

With the Irish government having already welcomed Mr Brooke's offer, and the SDLP expected to follow suit, the two Unionist parties have until Easter to respond. Mr Brooke has made clear that if any party feels unable to proceed, his initiative will be abandoned. Jim Molyneux, the UUP leader, and Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, are seeking clarification on a number of points, but UUP sources denied that would involve further negotiations.

Liberal Democrats' conference

Confident party tries to shake off wimp image

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

AT LEAST in their own eyes, the Liberal Democrats are quiche-eaters no more.

Buoyed up by Eastbourne and Ribbles Valley, a surge in the opinion polls and by taking one vote in three in council by-elections so far this year, they staged a conference far bricker in tone than anything we have seen from a centre party in years. Lord Holme, author of the policy document *Shaping Tomorrow* — *Starting Today*, called it the end of the "wimp factor" in Liberal Democrat politics.

A sign that their confidence had returned came when Jenny Tongue, candidate for Richmond and Barnes, told the conference of a friend remarking that they were "such nice people, but you don't know what they stand for". Only she had been talking of the Labour party. The hall echoed to the rueful laughter of a lesson learned.

Paddy Ashdown likes to talk of "staging posts". He sees the next election in such terms, with the party targeting seats it hopes to gain and investing resources too in other "developmental" seats which it hopes to take at the election after that. Nothing ham was perhaps the last staging post in the shift over which he has presided from soggy centralism to a crisper radical pitch.

The Liberal Democrats are now prepared, they insist, to tell the public that better education might mean higher taxes and preserving the environment means fewer cars. As good Europeans they want a single currency and an independent central bank.

Their big problem will be in

focusing attention on the policies of a party which patently will not move into government in its own right and diverting attention from talk of their likely tactical behaviour in a hung parliament. Paddy Ashdown is trying to get the hung parliament talk over now. Their other problem is how to excite interest in electoral reform. There is a new optimism in evidence, particularly now that Labour is sharing more interest.

Paddy Ashdown did not quite tell his troops, as David Steel once did, "Go back to your constituencies and prepare for government". But he did tell them that they are back on the journey to power. They believed him because he has shown energy, patience and a natural touch with the grassroots. He has become a sparkling conference speaker. His assured performance through the Gulf war have introduced him to the wider public in a way in which only general elections have achieved for past minority party leaders. His hope is that like Cromwell's russet-coated captains his party will now come to know what it is fighting for and to love what it knows.

However, the May local elections may prove a stern test. The Liberal Democrats have to defend some 450 gains made four years ago when the Liberal-SDP Alliance was standing at 25 per cent in the polls. If they do so successfully then some of the braver rhetoric we heard will have been justified.

Ashdown speech, page 1
Vernon Bogdanor, page 10

More time urged in fight to save cabinet

By JOHN SHAW AND SARAH JANE CHECKLAND

SIMON Jervis, director of the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, pressed the government yesterday for more time to save the celebrated Badminton cabinet from export to the United States.

As the six-month deadline to raise the £8.58 million purchase price expired last night with the museum still £6 million short of its target, Mr Jervis said the government could yet announce a further month's extension in which to pay the sum. If ministers are receptive to his plea, an announcement will have to be made in the next two or three days before the export order is signed by the trade department. Mr Jervis said: "The argument we are trying to

press is that the National Art Collections Fund, which has taken this on as a national appeal... deserves a decent amount of time to have a proper go."

The cabinet, described as the most important piece of furniture in England, was sold by the Duke of Beaufort's Settlement to Mrs Barbara Seward Johnson, heiress to the baby products company, at Christie's last July. A temporary two-month export "stop" was announced in September to enable matching funds to be found in Britain. Sir Nicholas Goodison, chairman of the National Art Collections Fund, has asked the prime minister for a stay of execution.

Flawed bulls blamed for cow disease

The "mad cow" disease which has killed 25,000 British cattle since its first official diagnosis in 1986 might have been spread by genetically susceptible bulls through artificial insemination, according to a retired government scientist (Michael Hornsby writes).

If the theory is correct, the level of genetic susceptibility in British cattle would appear to be so high that slaughtering the entire national herd might be the only way of controlling the disease, bovine spongiform encephalopathy.

Most scientists investigating the outbreak blame it on a big increase in the amount of feed made from sheep infected with scrapie, a similar disease.

In a letter to *The Veterinary Record*, however, Iain Pattison, a former deputy director of the government's animal health research unit at Compton, Berkshire, says his research in the 1960s persuades him that the condition in cattle occurs spontaneously.

EC charter study

Government employment ministers are content with most of the European social charter proposals and believe that Britain is more advanced than many EC countries in introducing them, according to a study by Income Data Services on the social dimension of the European single market of 1992. Progress on introducing a range of EC employment provisions is painfully slow, the study says.

Meeting upset

Two Irish MPs last night criticised Johnny Walker, one of the freed Birmingham Six, for having met Martin McGuinness, Sinn Féin leader, after his release. Brendan McGahon, Fine Gael MP for Louth, said he thought many supporters of the Six would find it immensely disillusioning.

Two die in crash

Police sergeant Lewis Gamba, of Brighton, and his daughter-in-law Lorraine, aged 26, of Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, were killed in a four-vehicle crash yesterday. His wife and son and one other driver were seriously injured.

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Baptist

Battle goes on for ignored victims of military accidents

THE defence ministry is today preparing to process claims for compensation for death and injury in the Gulf caused by alleged negligence.

The claims from members of the armed forces and their families will be considered under the Crown Proceedings Act 1947 which was altered with effect from 1986 to allow for such compensation. The claims add weight to a campaign demanding the same treatment for servicemen and their families affected by military accidents before 1986.

Servicemen killed and injured by negligence before then are not entitled to a penny because when the Commons repealed section ten of the act the legislation was not made retrospective. Under section ten, those killed or injured in accidents caused by negligence on the part of the Ministry of Defence or members of the armed forces could not sue. Campaigners plan to ask the prime minister to intervene on behalf of those who cannot get redress.

The announcement that section ten was to be abolished was made by George Younger, then defence secretary, on December 8, 1986, after a long campaign by servicemen and their families. A private members' bill was presented by Winston Churchill MP with cross party support. It did not, however, provide for retrospective compensation.

During the bill's second reading in February 1987, Jack Ashley, Labour MP for Stoke-on-Trent South, tabled an amendment calling for retrospective payments to be made. The defence secretary's reply: "There is a general principle that new legislation

Servicemen who were injured by negligence before 1986 cannot claim compensation.
Peter Victor reports

is for the future." He would not allow cases to be brought for acts of negligence prior to December 1986. "It is wrong in principle to permit a serviceman injured in the past, before December 8, 1986, to bring a law suit against another serviceman," he said. "That is the mechanics of how he would seek legal redress. He would have to bring a suit and name other servicemen. It would be wrong to impose that retrospective legal liability upon servicemen for acts committed in the past under a different legal regime."

The government did, however, give assurances that once the bill was passed it would try to help those who did not benefit from the repeal of section ten. In April 1987 Roger Freeman, then armed forces minister, said: "In committee I gave certain commitments, and I repeat the key commitment that I gave — that we will continually review and ensure that the armed forces pension scheme, and the other schemes which the Ministry of Defence operates which involve payments to those who are invalided out of service or who die in service, are adequate in comparison with other public departments and the private sector."

He refused to set up a special fund for ex gratia payments but assured Mr

Ashley that the defence ministry would be reviewing its compensation system.

With the announcement of a general election for June 1987, some sponsors of the bill feared it would be lost if Mr Ashley continued to seek retrospective. The bill was enacted in May 1987 — but gained nothing for victims of negligence before December 8, 1986.

The Section Ten Abolition Group is still, however, campaigning for the repeal to be made retrospective. The group has the backing of MPs from all parties and Mr Ashley is writing to Mr Major calling for compensation.

Section ten is also being used to block compensation claims by those involved in nuclear tests in the 1950s. Records show that among 22,000 participants there was a higher incidence of blood cancers, myeloma and leukaemia than among the population as a whole. While the government has consistently denied liability for those servicemen who contracted cancer after witnessing the tests, it has also claimed crown immunity under the act. The nuclear test campaigners say that in claiming such immunity the government admits liability.

In 1988 Mr Ashley asked Margaret Thatcher whether a trust fund could be set up and payments made on an ex gratia basis. Mrs Thatcher rejected the plan, writing: "It was concluded, with reluctance, that no way forward could be found that did not break the principle of non-retrospection or present other insuperable difficulties."

Leading article, page 11



A black ottoman bell-shaped dress (left) and double-breasted suit from the Valentino collection



Italians are talk of the town at Paris shows

FROM LIZ SMITH
FASHION EDITOR
IN PARIS

PARIS remains a magnet for international fashion talent. If you can make it here, you can make it anywhere, must be the view of many a designer as more of the top names gravitate to show in Paris during fashion week.

Tonight Vivienne Westwood, Britain's Designer of the Year, is staging her comeback on the Parisian fashion scene with a show in a studio in the Marais lent by the Tunisian designer Azzedine Alaïa. Oscar de la Renta, star of Manhattan high society, as well as a power on Seventh Avenue, New York's fashion avenue, makes his debut in the Louvre show tent tomorrow. But it is two Italian designers who provide the news off and on the catwalks.

Valentino, who this year celebrates the 30th anniversary of his couture house in Rome, yesterday sent out a typically polished parade of pretty, princess-line coats and bell-skirted suits in Donegal tweed and Prince of Wales checks. His spring coats in shagreen and skinny sweaters and tunics were decorated with exotic kelim patterns but he made most impact earlier in the day by announcing the appointment of Beatrice Bongibault as head of marketing in his fashion empire, resolving the cliff-hanger of the saga of the House of Dior.

Madame Bongibault, who was previously at Chanel before her appointment as managing director at Dior two years ago, was summarily dismissed in December by Bernard Arnault. Paris fashion has been speculating on her future career ever since.

Romeo Gigli, the Milanese designer who moved his show-case to Paris last year, can be forgiven for regarding a sombre collection in Paris at the weekend. His current struggle to regain control of his business after a split with his close friend and muse, Carla Sozzani, has fascinated the fashion world for weeks. His lyrical style shone through, however, in wool coats punched to look like lace, and burgundy-sequined chiffon petalled dresses.

Oscar de la Renta, page 14

Police 'need local control of cash'

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

POLICE could meet their communities' needs better if budgets were decentralised to allow local senior officers more freedom over them, the Audit Commission says in a report published today.

It suggests that a mismatch has been created, with ever more forces giving local commanders greater freedom over organising manpower and operations, yet denying them control of the money involved.

Many forces have tried to ease financial restraints but they face the obstacles created by the power of the Home Office and police authorities, according to the commission, which covers England and Wales. There is little uniformity between forces, with a superintendent in one having more financial responsibility than chief constables in others. The Home Office, police authorities and chief constables are unable to assess

local needs as accurately as officers in the field, the report says. Given more power over finance, local officers could save money.

In two forces the cost of transporting prisoners from rural areas to larger stations to be photographed was saved by allowing the rural officers to buy instant cameras. In another, decisions on new vehicles took 18 months,

costing £50,000 to £75,000 a year in price rises.

Spending on mileage and overtime, likely to account for large proportions of annual budgets, can fluctuate wildly during a financial year as the central finance officer tries to balance the budget. Many local officers authorise extra work at the start of the year in case there is a moratorium later.

BR employee arrested

SCOTLAND Yard's fraud squad and British Transport police are investigating allegations of corrupt links between an Irish company and executives of British Rail and British Telecom (Stewart Tandler writes).

Yesterday, British Transport police said a BR employee had been arrested and a report would go to the DPP. The Yard said allegations in

The Sunday Times would be examined by the fraud squad, which has a section specialising in allegations of corruption in public life. Up to 20 executives involved in organising contracts worth millions of pounds are alleged to have accepted free weekends at sporting events, meals and hotel accommodation in return for advice or information of contracts.

AGENDA

The week ahead

Today
Friends of the Earth discuss global warming at a seminar in Kensington Town Hall, anti-vivisectionists launch a campaign to end cosmetic tests on animals, and at the House of Commons, Lynx promote a new material intended to drive the fur trade into extinction. The Princess of Wales lays the foundation stone of a new building at the Great Ormond Street Hospital.

Tomorrow
Norman Lamont's first budget day. The Queen holds an investiture at Buckingham Palace and the Prince of Wales addresses an environmental conference at the Queen Elizabeth II centre in Westminster.

Wednesday
Ion Raitu, the Romanian opposition leader, and the Dalai Lama have news conferences in London.

Thursday
Memorial service for King Olav of Norway at Westminster Abbey. The Queen starts visit to Merseyside and Greater Manchester.

Friday
Tory central council meeting opens in Southport. Retail price index figures released.

Saturday
Anti-Poll Tax Federation march and rally in Hyde Park. Scientists Against Nuclear Arms hold their tenth anniversary conference in Camden, north London.

Bitterness that will remain all his life

WHEN Martin Ketterick laughs, and it is not often, his laughter is tinged with a note of bitterness that will stay with him for the rest of his life. (Peter Victor writes).

In November 1980, at the age of 22 and a corporal in the Royal Marines, he was in the prime of life with a promising future. He was then involved in an accident, which the marines accept was not his fault, during climbing training in the Lake District. He broke his back and four ribs and fractured his skull. A year later he could see no reason for living. He was a paraplegic.

Four weeks later, Mr Ketterick's solicitor told him that section ten of the Crown Proceedings Act 1947 ruled out any possibility of him getting compensation. "I couldn't believe it," he said.

He says that since the accident the defence ministry has told him nothing not offered support. In March 1982, while still in hospital, he was advised that he would get £5,000 in gratuities and war pension benefits, together worth £106 a week.

Soon afterwards Mr Ketterick learned of a case where a man had been injured, though not as seriously, at work. His compensation payment was more than £200,000, plus the same social service benefits. He contacted Jack Ashley, his local MP, who began to campaign on his behalf.

Then came the most difficult period. He moved in with his sister, brother-in-law and their two daughters, putting up his gratuity as part payment towards a bungalow they shared. "Sitting in a wheelchair is just the tip of the iceberg," Mr Ketterick said. "I'm doubly incontinent and get pressure sores. I had to have an ileostomy because my bowels were such a mess. I suffered from black depressions and kept thinking why aren't people looking



Ketterick, who broke his back on training: "Sitting in a wheelchair is just the tip of the iceberg"

after me?" By this he meant the defence ministry.

In 1984, his sister and her family moved. Faced with having the house reposessed, he moved in with his parents. Unable to get upstairs, he spent almost a year in bed in the living room. His mother had to bed bath him. With financial help from a local authority housing officer who had come to see if he was alright. They struck up a relationship and, eventually, were married. Mr Ketterick gained the family he could not father, as Christine came with her eight-year-old twin son and daughter. Between them they have helped to assuage some of his bitterness, but a lot remains.

The defence ministry refused to discuss individual cases and said the law made retrospective impossible.

shock was the realisation that the change was not going to be retrospective.

In June 1986, Mr Ketterick got peritonitis, had emergency surgery, and for a while was on a life support machine. However, a knock on the door on June 2, 1989, was to bring new joy. The caller was a local authority housing officer who had come to see if he was alright. They struck up a relationship and, eventually, were married. Mr Ketterick gained the family he could not father, as Christine came with her eight-year-old twin son and daughter. Between them they have helped to assuage some of his bitterness, but a lot remains.

The defence ministry refused to discuss individual cases and said the law made retrospective impossible.

Baptist urges a tactical vote for God

By ROBIN YOUNG

A MORAL crusade led by a Baptist minister aged 84 is attempting to bring God into politics in Llanelli, Dyfed. "We want to stop the effects of drinking, fighting and gambling which are turning Llanelli into the most dissolute town in Wales," says the Rev Dewi Davies, who is urging members of the Llanelli Free Church Council, of which he is president, to search for candidates to stand in the local government elections in May.

Mr Davies, who has been ministering at the Moriah chapel in the centre of the town for 42 years, said: "Burglary, vandalism and assault are increasing. The police are very worried about it and old people are afraid to go

out. All this immorality stems from the fact that people have turned away from God. "The nation is blundering from one mess to another without any sense of values, but things are worse in Llanelli because there is so much unemployment with the closure of the steel works, and Satan always finds work for idle hands."

On the search for suitable candidates, Mr Davies said: "We have agreed that where there is a candidate who is a solid Christian we will not oppose him, but church people have been too passive and fearful in the past. The time has come when we should exert ourselves far more in the life of the town." He said that the idea

for a religious ticket, with a church-endorsed candidate in every ward in the town, had excited much interest. "People have come up to me in the street and said that it is a good thing we are doing," he said.

He will not be standing for election himself. "I am too old," he said, "but if I were younger I would certainly do it. We have too many clubs open until the small hours of the morning, resulting in fights and drunkenness, and we should cut the number of one-armed bandit machines being brought into the town, so that we may prevent children from becoming addicted to gambling. In my mind's eye I can see us taking the town by storm."



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On the eve of the Budget, Times writers study the history, economics and politics of the big day

Bizarre ritual emerged from Walpole's leather bag

By DANIEL JOHNSON

HANDBAG economics did not come in with Margaret Thatcher, but with Robert Walpole. The British have associated their public finances with a handbag, or Budget, for nearly three centuries. Chancellors of the Exchequer have always been bagmen, but since Lloyd George they have tended to become swagmen too.

The Commons' exclusive right to raise taxes dates from the reign of Charles II. Once the civil list was established under Queen Anne, ministers could conduct a proper annual review. But only in Britain, where parliamentary power always rested on control of finance, did a routine accounting procedure evolve into the bizarre ritual of Budget Day.

Budgets really date from Walpole, who ran the nation's finances throughout his 21 years as first lord of the Treasury (prime minister), though he did hold the then junior

office of Chancellor of the Exchequer for two years. His papers were brought to the house in a leather bag, known as a "budget", a corruption of the French *bougette*.

The link with the annual parliamentary event is first recorded in 1733, when a pamphleteer accused Walpole of behaving like a quack doctor. "So then, out it comes at last. The Budget is opened; and our state empiric hath dispensed his packets by his Zany Courtiers through all parts of the Kingdom." Walpole's attempt to reform the fiscal system, through an Excise Bill which would have taxed tobacco and wine and enabled him to abolish the main direct tax (on land), failed miserably.

The first true reforming chancellor was William Pitt the Younger, who took the job, aged 23, in 1782, continued to hold it as prime minister from 1783 till 1801, and returned to both offices from 1804

to his early death in 1806. Pitt created a recognisably modern financial system. The civil list had to be reviewed annually by Parliament, the crown lands were placed under commissioners, sinecures were replaced by salaries.

However, 22 years of war while he was in office upset Pitt's sinking fund to pay off the national debt; not until Nigel Lawson did anyone try again. Pitt met the £831 million cost of the French wars with the most powerful (and dangerous) of all fiscal inventions: a graduated income tax. Budget speeches after Pitt were not yet great events, nor were they veiled in utmost secrecy. Nor did chancellors need to be experts in the dismal new science of political economy.

The first time that a government fell over a Budget, in 1852, the chancellor was Disraeli. His Budget was a daring attempt to abandon protectionism, while compensating those who had lost

out through free trade at the expense of small income taxpayers and householders. Disraeli also introduced the distinction between "precious" (earned) and "unearned" incomes.

It was Gladstone who destroyed the minority Tory government in his formidable reply, and it was Gladstone who later succeeded to the same office. When he asked Disraeli to hand over the chancellor's robes, he received a dusty answer. He wrote back: "It is highly unpleasant to Mr W.E. Gladstone to address Mr Disraeli without the usual terms of courtesy, but he abstains from them only because he perceives that they are unwelcome."

Gladstone was, after Pitt, the longest-serving and probably the greatest chancellor; he held the post for much of the 1850s and 1860s, and then combined it with the premiership in 1873-4 and 1881-2. His attempt to swindle Disraeli in

the 1874 election by promising to abolish income tax backfired. Otherwise his mastery of public finance was complete, and his Budget speeches, though very long, were never dull.

More than a decade after Gladstone's fourth government, Asquith, the next major reformer at 11 Downing Street, found the Treasury still under the G.O.M.'s spell. In his first Budget of 1906 Asquith wanted to reintroduce Disraeli's distinction between earned and unearned income. "I was at once met with the objection, which was considered fatal, that Gladstone had always declared that any such scheme was impracticable."

The coup de grace for Gladstonian finance, and the beginning of the welfare state, came with Lloyd George's "People's Budget" of 1909. Until Lloyd George, who held the office from 1908-15, public spending was no

greater than it had been in Pitt's day. Though the Finance Bill was eventually steamrollered through the Lords after a general election, the Budget speech itself had been a penance.

That was the first modern Budget Day. True, no chancellor would today take four hours over his speech. But the political essentials were all there: from the secrecy to the spontaneous delivery.

Many chancellors since - Snowden and Chamberlain, Butler and Macmillan, Jenkins and Hesley, Howe and Lawson - have presented their Budgets with an impressive-sounding command of their subject. But every one of them has been out of his depth. All attempts to "manage" the economy, such as Callaghan's selective employment tax or Lawson's shadowing of the Deutschmark, have sooner or later backfired. Nobody can run a welfare state; it runs itself.

Voluntary groups face closure in Tory cash dispute

By DOUGLAS BROOM
LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 700 voluntary organisations, including the country's first battered wives refuge, face closure at the end of the month because of a dispute over putting a halfpenny a week on the poll tax to support them.

Michael Portillo, the local government minister, has urged Conservative council leaders in London to relent in their refusal to approve a budget for grants to voluntary bodies. Even though Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, has endorsed plans to spend £30.155 million from next month on funding voluntary bodies in London, Conservative council leaders have demanded cuts of up to £4 million.

Their refusal to vote for the government-approved budget has prevented the London boroughs grants committee, which administers the grant scheme set up by the Greater London Council, from obtaining the two-thirds majority needed formally to set its budget and to release the cash.

Last week the Tory boroughs proposed a compromise figure of £28 million, making the gap £2 million, the equivalent of a halfpenny a week on the poll tax for London's community charge payers. While the argument continues, most voluntary bodies have had to issue staff with redundancy notices to comply with the legal requirement that they give 28 days' notice of dismissal.

The budget, which represents a standstill on last year's spending, was approved in outline in December but the Conservative borough of Kensington and Chelsea later withdrew its support. Martin Mallam, leader of Conservative-controlled Ealing council, said the voluntary bodies could have had their money if the Labour and Liberal Democrat groups which hold the balance of power on the committee had agreed to a Conservative proposal to pay out £28 million while the dispute was being resolved.

A senior government source said ministers were concerned. "These councils seem to be playing party political games over a sum of money which, when shared between the 32 London boroughs, is really not very large. We risk losing voluntary organisations for the sake of putting less than 30p on the annual poll tax bill."

High cost of collection

LOCAL authorities in England and Wales have been forced to employ 11,600 additional full-time staff at a cost of more than £200 million to collect the community charge, according to a Mori survey published today (Tim Jones writes).

Apex Partnership, the staff section of the GMB general union which commissioned the survey, the largest yet on the effects of poll tax on local authorities, says many have been forced to cut essential services.

The 166 returns received from 401 members of the Association of District Councils and the Association of Metropolitan Authorities show the councils have employed an average of 29 extra staff to collect the charge. Nearly half are cutting blue-collar staff such as dustmen to compensate.

Charity strained

THE National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children has had to draw £3 million from its reserves to maintain services. The society raised £27 million last year, over 90 per cent of it from public donations, but spent £30 million to maintain its services, which included helping more than 53,000 children and making over 42,000 family visits. The society is to unveil its strategy for the 1990s at its annual council meeting in London today.

Small luxury

Ron May, aged 50, a Wiltshire carpenter, is hoping to beat the recession by building £3,750 Wendy houses. The 9ft high replica Tudor cottages have real thatched roofs, leaded glass windows and co-ordinated carpets and curtains. They are built to stand in the garden and are transported fully assembled to the buyer after being made in Mr May's workshop at Kilmington. His partner Jacqui Ridout said yesterday that they had 150 orders from America, Belgium and Britain.

Chancellor must try to keep June as election option

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

POLITICIANS of all parties agree that unless the economic figures improve, there will be no June election. The task for Norman Lamont in tomorrow's budget is to keep the June option open by making those figures appear better without making it too obvious.

The pressures on Mr Lamont are political and personal. He has to convince MPs that there is something more than his running of John Major's election campaign to qualify him for the job of chancellor. He has also to produce a budget that will lift Conservative morale after the poll tax shilly-shallying and the Ribble Valley by-election disaster.

However, since he is still a probationer so far as the markets are concerned, Mr Lamont cannot risk anything which smacks of risk-taking or imprudence. The timing of John Major's interest rate cut when Britain entered the ERM last October, just before the Conservative party conference, was a political move. The City is now particularly watchful for political motive.

The consensus among Conservative MPs is that Mr Lamont will have to address himself to traditional party supporters who feel most affronted by the course of the economy over the past year and to the skilled working classes whose desertion of the

Labour party had much to do with Conservative success in the last two elections. That almost inevitably means action to help small businesses hit by the recession and the many encouraged to become first-time home buyers under the Tories and who are now crippled by high mortgage interest rates.

There will be deep disappointment in Tory ranks if the mortgage lenders are not nudged along by a cut of at least half a per cent in interest rates. Many are hoping for a full percentage point. As for small businesses, there is talk of an increase in capital allowances which, MPs believe, could be extended to businesses which at present do not qualify.

Conservative MPs are increasingly sensitive about the subject of unemployment. They are finding much greater inclination at grass roots level for people to blame the government this time around for lost jobs. In 1981-2 blame could be shifted more convincingly to a previous political management. This time there is no alibi.

Many MPs would therefore like to see the chancellor announce specific help for the long-term unemployed, preferably in a form which reduces the jobless totals. There will be a welcome for any increase in training provision. Tories sus-

pect that this is a soft underbelly of their policies in electoral terms.

Mr Lamont, a convinced privatiser, will have little trouble satisfying the Tory Right which is looking for a reaffirmation of Thatcherite values. He and Mr Major are keen to press ahead with the privatisation programme and an announcement is expected that the chancellor is increasing the provision for privatisation sales in his budget calculations.

Mr Lamont will, however, also have to begin living up to the prime minister's rhetoric about the classless society. That means action to help the lower paid through the tax system. Income tax cuts, are likely to be concentrated entirely in this area. However, there is also an air of expectation among MPs that Mr Lamont will do more to help working mothers with childcare costs, few of whom were affected by last year's tax concessions on workplace nurseries.

The further reduction of inflation remains the chancellor's overriding priority and for that reason MPs are certain that increases on duty for cigarettes and alcohol will be kept below the rate of inflation for the year.

Leading article, page 11



Family stroll: the chancellor in Richmond Park, south west London, at the weekend with his wife and daughter

Signs of recovery lurk in the gloom

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

NORMAN Lamont, the chancellor, presents his first Budget tomorrow with the economy plumb the depths of recession, unemployment reaching two million and rising, record bankruptcies, and worsening government finances.

Although most economists foresee the economy shrinking over 1991 as a whole, first pointers to recovery have started to appear, most importantly a slowdown in underlying retail price inflation. There is also tentative evidence that pay pressures

are easing. After peaking at 10.9 per cent last autumn, annual inflation, as measured by the retail price index, is now expected to be just below 9 per cent in February data due this Friday. Many City forecasters believe it could be below 4 per cent in the autumn.

The end of the Gulf war, the recent cuts in interest rates, and hopes of more to come, have brought optimism to the London stock exchange, pushing share prices to an all-time high last week. But this is not yet reflected in the high street and property market.

An official breakdown of Britain's economic performance, published on Friday, indicated that the recession is much deeper than previously thought. Growth in 1990 was only 0.5 per cent, half what John Major, then chancellor, predicted in his autumn statement in November.

Excluding North Sea oil and gas production, the decline in the gross domestic product accelerated to 1 per cent in the fourth quarter from 0.5 per cent in the third. But while the economy slid rapidly into recession, corporate Britain saw its financial deficit climb £8 billion to a record £27 billion.

Consumer expenditure, which accounts for two-thirds of GDP, showed its largest drop since 1977 in the second half of last year. Investment fell 6.4 per cent in the final

quarter of 1990. However the economic gloom and high interest rates have encouraged savers, boosting savings in the final months of 1990 to the highest proportion of total disposable income for six years. Consumer spending fell 1.6 per cent.

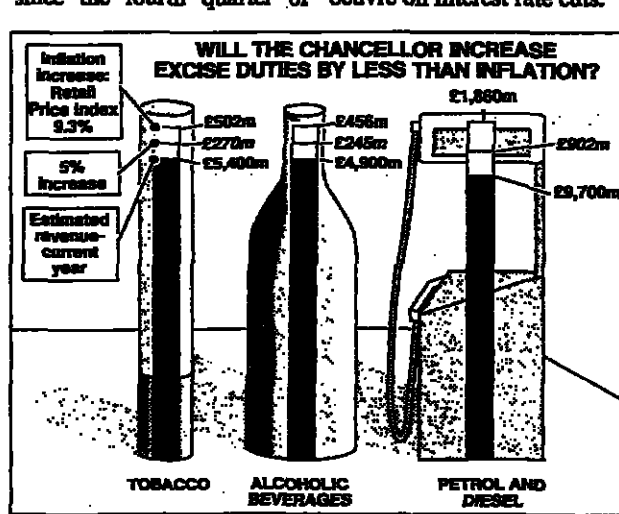
Jobs are being axed at a rate approaching that seen in the last recession in the early eighties. The latest unemployment figures suggest an underlying monthly rise of 65,000 to 70,000 jobs.

A widespread concern among economists and politicians is the decline in investment, which fell 2.5 per cent in the last quarter of 1990, making a fall of 6.4 per cent since the fourth quarter of

1989 - compared to 9 per cent in the recession of 1980-81.

As recession, cuts, into, tax revenues and increases demands on public spending, the government is set to return to borrowing again after a budget surplus that allowed it to repay part of the national debt.

The trade gap has narrowed as high interest rates subdued demand for imports and made manufacturers look abroad for markets. The current account deficit, which encompasses trade in goods and services, was down to £12.8 billion in 1990 from nearly £20 billion the year before. The improved trade picture reduced pressure on the pound, increasing the chancellor's room for manoeuvre on interest rate cuts.



Homebuyers await interest rate cut

By CHRISTOPHER WARMAN, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

HOUSEBUYERS are awaiting another cut in interest rates before deciding to enter the market and set it on the path to recovery, according to a house price survey published today by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

The institution says that the ending of the Gulf war and the run-up to the traditionally busy Easter period should help to nudge the housing market towards recovery, but that another cut in interest rates is needed before real confidence can take hold. Most regions are reporting growing interest from first-time buyers who are sensing an end to declining property values, but "all eyes are on the Budget and market conditions over the coming weeks to see whether buyer interest will be converted into sales", the report says.

For the three months to the end of

February, only 1.8 per cent of the 138 agents in the survey reported an increase in prices of up to 2 per cent. Nearly 58 per cent said that prices were static while the rest reported prices still falling.

Peter Miller, the institution's housing market spokesman, said that many of the reports contained notes of encouragement. "Many areas report more prospective purchasers viewing properties, with a significant increase in first-time buyers demonstrating a good underlying demand," he said. "Sellers will, however, need to remain extremely realistic in their pricing policy to take advantage of the slowly improving market."

The recovery, when it comes, is expected in London and the South-East, the first areas to suffer from the bust after the boom. Peter Green of Heringtons estate agents, of Beaconsfield, Bucking-

hamshire, says that the fall in interest rates and the approach of spring are "encouraging homebuyers, but still the level of sales remains disappointing". John Coxon, of Churchman & Duke, in Crawley, West Sussex, looks to a resurgence in the market, "but slowly, as economic indicators are still against it".

Tim Barton, of Drewatt Neate, Newbury, Berkshire, says that while the market is showing signs of life, a number of sellers are moving down-market or to rented accommodation to release capital. In Greater London, Richard Macdonald, of Copping Joyce's north Finchley office, says that first-time buyers are biding their time before committing themselves to purchase, while in Southgate, north London, the firm of Rash & Rash has reported a dramatic increase recently in activity.

Doubts on cancer test claims

A TEST for cervical cancer which is claimed to be superior to conventional methods could lead to increased distress while failing to identify women at genuine risk, doctors said yesterday (Nick Nuttall writes).

Studies published in the *British Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology* indicate that cervicography can detect eight times more abnormalities in the cervix than traditional smear tests. A study by British medical experts found that 7.8 per cent of women tested with the technique had abnormalities compared with 1 per cent tested using standard smear tests.

Frank Sharp, professor of obstetrics and gynaecology at Sheffield university's medical school, said that cervicography might detect more abnormalities but that the key question was their significance. "If they are inconsequential abnormalities, it means we probably do not want to know about them."

Crippling rent rises threaten to break Chinatown

By JOHN BLANDY

CHINATOWN, that aromatic clutch of streets in the centre of London packed with all things Chinese, is going through hard times because of a combination of large rent increases, the recession and the uniform business rate. Traders fear for the future of the close-knit trading community.

The owners of many of the shops and restaurants in Soho's southern quarter, which for 30 years has been a rich cultural focus for the Chinese community and a paradise for diners in search of a genuine taste of the Orient, are faced with a stark dilemma: put up prices or sell out. In the present recession, either solution would be suicide for many of them.

Over the years, long hours, punishingly hard work and value for money have created thriving businesses where once sleaze and prostitution reigned. Health shops, hairdressers, medical

centres, martial arts suppliers, shops selling crafts and jewellery, clothes, Chinese-language videos, and other stores and markets selling everything to do with food jostle colourfully for attention. It is a friendly, unhurried place, the air flavoured with the peppery smell of ginger, a magnet to visitors to the capital and certainly one of the jewels of Soho.

That very success, however, may be Chinatown's undoing. Rent increases on shop premises have as much as tripled in four years. With the recession curbing consumer spending, businesses have nowhere to turn.

Paul Lam, a director of various concerns in the area, feels betrayed. "Landlords are taking advantage of the acquiescence of the community," he said. "Perhaps we were naive, but we built up this area with our sweat and without the help of the landlords. Now they are



Lam: "We built up this area with our sweat. Now they are killing the goose that laid the golden egg"

killing the goose that laid the golden egg. Eighty per cent of businesses in Chinatown are struggling. It would be

immoral and a betrayal of the customers to pass on the extra costs to them." Two of his restaurants and one retail

shop, which together paid £22,000 rent in 1978, were now paying £120,000, and he was in the middle of negotiating new leases with his landlords.

He feared that in the wake of revaluation of properties for insurance, they might ask as much as £400,000. "How can landlords ask for sky-high increases at times of recession?" He estimated that turnover would have to rise by £10,000 a week to pay for every £1,000 increase in rent.

The relationship between landlords and tenants, which used to be amicable, was now worsening. "They are using all sorts of pressure and coercion to get their way," Mr Lam said. The principle of comparability, in which the rent paid by one shop was used to fix that of similar ones, was being used to extract the most out of small traders.

Westminster city council, one of the main landlords in the area, was sympathising

with the plight of small shopkeepers while simultaneously demanding the highest rent. "The chance of any agreement with the council is evaporating," Mr Lam said.

He and others in the community are fighting back and are forming a tenants' association to co-ordinate a response on rents. Jerry Tsang, another Chinatown trader, said Westminster council was no better than the private landlords. "They are all being too greedy." A rent of £61,000 was being asked for his fish and meat market, which five years ago was paying £18,000.

Westminster council said that while it was the statutory duty of the council to obtain the best possible rent increase on its properties, it was always prepared to consider particular circumstances. Rents, which had gone up in the boom, were subject to market forces and it was possible that they could come down.

Head
Clark
7-year
test re

Boy's body
found
in canal

Hunt injury

Murder charge

Two burned

Bustling drop

Bakery closes

Bond winners

Salmon
back in

السنة 1412

Heads defy Clarke on 7-year-olds' test results

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

HEAD teachers today embark on a collision course with the government over the publication of national curriculum test results for seven-year-olds.

The first assessments in English, mathematics and science take place after Easter, dividing children into three bands. Ministers are anxious to use the scores to monitor standards, especially in reading.

The National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT) is, however, advising its members in primary schools to pass on results only to parents. Even local education authorities, which are expected to collate their schools' scores and pass them on to the School Examinations and

Assessment Council (SEAC), would not be given the information. A statement by the association says that publication of results is not in the best interests of pupils or their parents. The length of time seven-year-olds have been in school, the variety of their pre-school experiences and the lack of any previous assessment against which to measure their progress would make the results inappropriate as a basis for public judgments, it says.

Although schools will be obliged to publish the aggregated results of assessments for pupils aged 11, 14 and 16, the Education Reform Act made an exception for seven-year-olds. Successive education secretaries, however, have encouraged voluntary publication.

Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, said yesterday: "I am quite sure that the public, the government and the local authorities are entitled to know what standards of reading, writing, mathematics and basic science are being achieved by seven-year-olds in our schools." Any intelligent reader could make allowances for the differences in background rightly stressed by the heads.

Mr Clarke agreed to abide by an undertaking given by his predecessor, John McGregor, that the first test results would not be published. He added, however, that the results had to be collected by local authorities and the government, and he hoped most heads would publish results willingly. "Once the tests are established, the public must reject the advice of the NAHT that head teachers should be allowed to keep the results in their own school secret."

David Hart, NAHT general secretary, said: "There are substantial professional reasons for non-publication, save of course, to parents in respect of their own children, as the NAHT advice makes clear. Neither the government nor the LEAs should under any circumstances seek to compel our members to act contrary to their professional judgments."

The association fears that some authorities will construct "league tables" of primary schools which may be misleading. Mr Hart said: "We will act as positively as we can but we draw a very firm line on publishing aggregated results for schools."

To expect results to be published at the tender age of seven, when the children have barely been in school for two years would be unreasonable and would undermine the very considerable willingness there is in the profession to make the system work."

He said that the association would require guarantees that local results would not be published before it would agree to release them for research, though if the aim was to get information to inform educational judgments, it would be happy to hold talks with the government.

School summary sheets have already been sent to local authorities by SEAC. A spokeswoman for the council said that schools were under a statutory obligation to provide their authorities with the figures, but that is disputed by the NAHT.

Boy's body found in canal

The body of Christopher Boothman, aged 15, was found by police frogmen yesterday after he went missing in his dinghy on Saturday along the Hobbie Canal at Copley, West Yorkshire.

The boy, who lived in a houseboat on the canal with his parents, was said to be a strong swimmer. A police spokesman said that the boy was found near his dinghy and that there were no suspicious circumstances. An inquest is to be held later this week.

Hunt injury

Jason Fazickarley, aged 27, the Green Party candidate for the Portsmouth North constituency, yesterday needed eight stitches in a head wound after what he claims was a savage attack on him by hunters as he watched saboteurs trying to disrupt a hunt near Privett, Hampshire. Three men are helping police with their enquiries.

Murder charge

Robert Charles Byrne, aged 18, unemployed, of Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, has been charged with the murder on Thursday of Dominic Gibbs, aged two.

Two burned

Two partygoers were slightly burned early yesterday after a petrol bomb was thrown through the entrance of Fat Jack's Club at Grazeley Green, Berkshire.

Rustling drop

One of the first "farmwatch" schemes in Wales, at Tregaron, Dyfed, is celebrating its fourth birthday with a reduction in sheep rustling from 1,029 in 1989 to 304 last year.

Bakery closes

The Big Bros bakery at Great Waltham, Essex, believed to be Britain's oldest village family bakery, has been forced to close because its owners cannot afford alterations ordered by the EC over the storage of coal near ovens.

Bond winners

Winners in the National Savings Premium Bonds weekly prize draw are £100,000, bond number 12LL 910305, Cambria; £50,000, bond number 25PL 920104, Kincairdineshire; £25,000, bond number 912 392763, Liverpool.

Salmon and trout back in the pink

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH scientists are testing a way of restoring the pink to farmed trout and salmon which may end the need for artificial colourings.

Wild salmon and several varieties of trout naturally feed on prawns and shrimps which give their flesh the distinctive pink colour, but farmed fish eat feed which leaves their flesh white and less appetising.

Farmers remedy this by adding canthaxanthin, an artificially-made colouring similar to carotenoid, the chemical which gives carrots their colour. The process has come under increasing criticism as concern grows over the possible links between the colouring and cancer. Moves are being made by the European Commission to ensure that fish dyed in this way are labelled.

A team led by Simon Davies, a scientist in the fish

nutrition unit at Polytechnic South West, Plymouth, has been experimenting with a group of micro-organisms which make their own natural version of the pink dye. Biotechnological techniques have allowed the team to isolate and concentrate the natural dye which is produced by some types of red yeast and algae. Long-term trials have indicated that the natural dye, when added to fish feed, performs just as well as artificial chemicals and has the added bonus of being nutritious.

The tests have, until now, been performed only on trout but Dr Davies believes that the yeast and algae dyes will work just as well with salmon. He said that the same techniques could be applied to improve the natural colouring of more expensive ornamental fish such as Japanese Koi carp.

Bluebell line seeks £1m from lovers of steam

By JOE JOSEPH

THE Bluebell Railway in Sussex draws 200,000 visitors a year, many of them people who have not outgrown their childhood fascination with the steam train. Some spend their weekends dressing in dark serge, like Victorian station masters, clipping tickets.

The Bluebell line, once part of the London Brighton and South Coast Railway, now wants steam engine enthusiasts to provide £1 million of working capital by buying shares in the railway. The cash will allow the Bluebell to restore a link to the British Rail network that was cut 30 years ago, when many branch lines withered under competition from cars and the population shift from the country to towns.

Bernard Holden, superintendent of the line and Bluebell's chairman, says: "We want the new money to buy some more railroad route and to buy ballast, sleepers and rails to put on



Full steam ahead: a Q class steam locomotive drawing a four-coach train at full power on the Bluebell Railway line in East Sussex

it. We are just three miles from East Grinstead."

Mr Holden feels that the connection, by creating a through rail link to London, will boost travellers on the Bluebell. He can call on 5,000 supporters who will lay track, switch signals, repair engines and shovel coal in their spare time. They include solicitors, pi-

lots and bricklayers. In the ranks of devotees, however, Graham Nutland is exceptional. He spends his week working as a British Rail traffic controller at King's Cross yet is still keen to spend his weekends driving steam trains along the Bluebell's tracks.

"Friends used to think I was a nutter", he said. "But

they don't any more. I've been working here for 31 years. My first job was as an engine fireman. I was still at school when I started. I have always loved trains. My fireman, Colin, he's a signalman at Lewes. But there he's a signalman, here he's firing engines."

"I think it's because the British were at the forefront

of the Industrial Revolution that we have a fascination for machinery."

Sheffield Park station, Bluebell's headquarters, is so untouched by the grim modern realities of rail travel that film crews use it as a backdrop. The station house was built in 1882. Its porch has a gas lantern. Shares are being offered at

£1 each. There are free tickets and dinner vouchers on the line's plush Pullman car for shareholders, but there are no dividends and the shares have little resale value. Copies of the prospectus and application forms are available from Bluebell Railway plc, Sheffield Park station, near Uckfield, East Sussex.

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Huge poll in Soviet referendum poised to boost Gorbachev's drive for unity

Rival leaders both stand to benefit in test of opinion

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

CITIZENS of the Soviet Union turned out in their millions yesterday to vote in the nationwide referendum on the continued unity of the country, the Kremlin's first exercise in popular consultation. Despite calls from radical and nationalist groups for a boycott and the refusal of six republics to hold the referendum at all, the turnout elsewhere was high, boding well for a convincing vote for President Gorbachev's "renewed federation of equal sovereign republics".

Mr Gorbachev, who has staked his future as Soviet leader on a decisive "yes" vote, said after casting his ballot in an elite district in Moscow's Lenin Hills that the disintegration of the Soviet Union would be a catastrophe "for the country, for Europe and for the whole world". Asked by a reporter about the risk of civil war, the Soviet leader said cheerfully: "In your country or in ours?"

Mr Gorbachev, with his wife, Raisa, and a group of supporters and security men, had walked from his nearby residence to a handsome yellow stucco building adorned with large red banners saying "Welcome" and "Referendum polling station No 11, October region". The area, in which the defence minister, Dmitri Yazov, and former Politburo member, Yegor

Ligachev, also voted, bristled with police and security men, incongruous in the bright early spring sunshine.

Across the city, the Russian Federation leader, Boris Yeltsin, in a similar ritual appearance after voting, accused Mr Gorbachev of using the referendum to try to preserve the old Communist party and government bureaucracy and renewed his call for a "collective" leadership.

However, he denied the differences between himself and Mr Gorbachev were personal. "These are not differences between Yeltsin and Gorbachev," he said. "These are differences between two policies, two approaches."

The relatively high turnout was also expected to benefit Mr Yeltsin. Voters in the Russian Federation had a second question in addition to the national question about preserving the Union, requesting approval for the creation of the post of a directly elected Russian president. This was regarded as tantamount to a vote of confidence in Mr Yeltsin, the obvious candidate for such a post.

Answering reporters' questions after voting, Mr Gorbachev attacked Mr Yeltsin's plans for the Russian presidency, saying that if it was created in accordance with the proposed Russian Federation constitution, it would mean "a

schism in the union".

In the week before the referendum, campaigning had become especially fierce in the Russian Federation, where the voting was widely seen as a chance for voters to express their preference between Mr Gorbachev and Mr Yeltsin. Leaflets circulating in city districts yesterday and Saturday called for a "No" vote to "prevent the survival of the old system at any cost".

Last night the main national television news showed Mr Gorbachev and the prime minister, Valentin Pavlov, casting their votes, but made no mention of Mr Yeltsin. As the referendum approached, coverage on central television had become openly propagandistic, canvassing a "Yes" vote as the only way of preventing the break-up of the Soviet Union and preserving the country's "great power" status.

In the six republics boycotting the referendum — the three Baltic republics, Armenia, Georgia and Moldova — voting was none the less conducted under special regulations in areas populated mainly by ethnic Russians. In Moldova, a polling station was reported to have been attacked and ransacked by nationalists while local police looked on.

The three Baltic republics held referendums — styled opinion polls — last month which showed a large majority in favour of complete independence from the Soviet Union. Yesterday Mr Gorbachev repeated his insistence that republics which voted against the union would have to conform to the Soviet constitution and proceed through the law on secession.

There were fears on the eve of the referendum that the special regulations introduced for those republics which were not officially taking part in the referendum could facilitate rigging. The polls in the Baltic region opened two days early, on Friday, with no explanation. Here, and elsewhere in the country, non-registered voters were allowed to take part if they produced proof of identity.

Yesterday for the first time political parties, including radicals and Communists, sent observers to polling stations to monitor proceedings.

The feed vote, page 1

LITHUANIA

Territorial claim splits Polish vote

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN RUDOWCE

WHEN the mansion of the Parszewski family in the village of Rudowce, near Vilnius, was built some time during the past century, the brewery down the hill belonged to the house. Today, the crumbling house is a branch of the collective farm brewery, and an ugly iron chimney protrudes from the back porch.

The fading grey-gold mansion is a symbol of the glory and decline of Poland in Lithuania. The Parszewski family, like all the Polish nobility, most of the intelligentsia and many peasants, fled to Poland when Soviet rule was established in Lithuania after 1944.

Poles in the Vilnius district who yesterday voted to remain in the Soviet Union, defying the Lithuanian government ban, said that they want to see the creation of an autonomous territory in the Vilnius region, which between the wars belonged to Poland. Some of them, and many local Russians and Belorussians, go further, and say that if Lithuania becomes independent, this area should break off to join Soviet Belorussia, a point Mr Gorbachev has been quick to take up. The Slav minorities are only about 20 per cent of the Lithuanian population, but their concentration in the southeast of the republic, near the Belorussian border, gives validity to the threat, which many Lithuanians fear.

It will be impossible, however, to treat the Soviet referendum as a fair or valid guide to this or any other question — though the Soviet government may well try to use the results as the basis for territorial changes. Since the Communist Party and the army completely controlled the process of voting and the counting, they hardly need to rig the results; they can simply invent them. These Polish majority towns and villages are only a few miles from the city of Vilnius, but give an impression of great isolation.

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UKRAINE

Ballot-rigging claims in key republic before polling began

FROM ROBERT SEELY IN KIEV

THE Ukraine's voters went to the polls yesterday overlooked by busts of Lenin and with allegations of ballot-rigging even before the elections began. Initial results in the 52-million-strong republic suggest a defeat for President Gorbachev's referendum question, and a large "Yes" vote in the Ukraine's separate poll calling for partial independence.

Most polling stations seemed to be correctly run, according to western voting observers, although they saw irregularities at some. Shops and restaurants attached to many polling stations, especially in rural areas, were

cramped to overflowing with otherwise scarce food and drink. The Ukraine's mainly Slav population and its economic wealth make it second in importance after Russia to the survival of the union. It is the lynchpin without which the USSR could not credibly function.

The republic's president, Leonid Kravchuk, went to a polling station early yesterday to cast his vote amid the glare of television lights and flashing cameras. He told the assembled audience: "What we want is to create our own sovereign state in the Ukraine first and that is a process we have only just started."

"There are two questions today, whether we are for a union, and if so for what kind of union. The Moscow press and the Kremlin have started talking, not about a union, but rather about a strong union state, and these are two different things."

Urging at least 75 per cent of the population to support the Ukraine's own referendum, he said: "I am voting for a union state in which the republic would form the kind of union that would satisfy the interests of the people. 'If we vote for a union state, the stronger the centre would be, the weaker its subjects would be. That would mean a tug-of-war between

the centre and the republic.' However, most voters seemed to think that the referendum was about Ukrainian independence, and the republic's own question contained as many ambiguities as President Gorbachev's. When asked in the street how they would vote a majority of people replied: "For a free Ukraine, against the union."

In the polling stations there were timely reminders to the electorate as they voted. Booths were covered in bright red cotton and many ballot boxes stamped with the hammer and sickle, busts or portraits of Lenin stared down at the voters.

But, official western observers expressed doubts about some polling stations. Orest Deychak, an election scrutineer from the US Congress-funded Commission on Co-operation in Europe said after visiting several polling stations: "An effort has been made to make the voting process free and fair."

"However, there are clearly irregularities and the Soviets still have some way to go. In some places there has been an atmosphere of chaos and confusion which increases the chances of disorderliness or dishonesty." In one voting district which was also holding a by-election between the republic's prime minister, Vitold

Fokin, and the leader of last year's students' strikes there was evidence of widespread multiple voting.

Mr Deychak said: "In that district we clearly saw serious irregularities. I witnessed instances of several ballot papers being handed out at a time."

The independent umbrella group, Rukh, claimed their representatives had been denied access to some polling stations and that ballot papers which legally should have been printed in separate colours were on identical paper.

The turnout in rural areas appeared to have been much higher than in cities.



Casting off: Soviet citizens from all walks of life depositing their ballot papers yesterday in the referendum on preserving the union of the state. From the left: an army officer; Raisa Gorbachev, wife of the beleaguered president; and Boris Yeltsin, the president of the Russian Federation and Mr Gorbachev's main political opponent.

MOLDAVIA

Pickets close the polls amid claims of widespread fraud

FROM TIMOTHY JUDAH IN KISHINEV

THE capital of Soviet Moldova was bracing itself for trouble yesterday as nationalists, in co-operation with the local police, sealed off polling stations and prevented those who wanted to vote in President Gorbachev's referendum from doing so.

Nationalists also claimed that widespread fraud was taking place. Soldiers administering polling stations admitted that it was impossible to prevent multiple voting by those who managed to get through the nationalist picket lines.

Moldavia, which borders Romania, is one of the six republics which refused to participate in yesterday's referendum. As in the other republics which boycotted the poll, Moscow directed that voting was to take place in factories, barracks and military bases. While some voting did take place on Friday and Saturday, yesterday the Moldavian nationalists succeeded in preventing access to

all seven of Kishinev's polling stations.

At the Soviet army barracks on Tighina Street, a line of local police and about 100 Moldavian nationalists faced a line of Soviet troops. "We're here to keep order," one policeman said. But those who tried to vote were kicked and beaten by the nationalists.

Neither the police, who were "advising" people not to vote, nor the army intervened. To the amusement of the nationalists, one retreating old lady screamed: "Fascist rats!"

A man who had failed to vote said: "Where is democracy? This is a real dictatorship. I will go to Russia and vote."

Another frustrated voter said that the nationalists should be "sent to Siberia".

However, expressing a common view, one of the nationalist pickets, Tudor Ojog, said: "We are an occupied territory, and you cannot have a referendum in an occupied territory."

Inside the barracks, riot police were waiting for orders, three armoured personnel carriers stood ready for action

and under a large portrait of Lenin, bored young conscripts waited in an empty room to process voters while listening to blaring pop music.

The intimidation of would-be voters was condemned by Yuri Rosca, the leader of the main nationalist organisation, the Moldavian Popular Front. He said: "We've tried to dissuade people from voting, but political ignorance is widespread on both sides. However, those who want to vote should not be physically stopped."

Mr Rosca also condemned the attempt by the Soviet authorities to hold the referendum in Moldavia, saying that they were doing it "to provoke the population and justify a strong military intervention."

Officials at the front headquarters, showed off sheafs of ballot papers which they claimed they had managed to get hold of on Friday and Saturday to prove how easy multiple voting was. Barely electoral rolls, this problem was admitted by Major Vladimir Olevisky of the Soviet army, who said: "There is no

way to verify the vote. The results will be inaccurate."

Moldavia, which was carved out of the old Romanian provinces of Bessarabia and Bukovina and annexed in 1940 under the terms of the Nazi-Soviet pact, is home to some four million people, two-thirds of whom speak Romanian. The rest are mostly Russians and Ukrainians, and the vast majority of those who were attempting to vote in Kishinev came from these minorities.

So far Moldavia has declared "sovereignty" and recognised "Romanian" as an official language. But it has not yet followed the Baltic republics in declaring independence. The situation in Moldavia is complicated by the fact that many assume that independence would in fact only be a prelude to reunification with Romania. It is this fear, and the present "Romanianisation" of the republic which has motivated the separatist and pro-Soviet sentiments among its Russian, Ukrainian, and Turkic populations.

Besieged electorate fights local nationalist fervour

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN TIRASPOL

THE poster in a Tiraspol shop window, put up by the local Communist party, warns residents of truly appalling consequences if their country fails to endorse the Soviet ideal in the nationwide referendum. It speaks of "a kind of postwar Africa" torn by "tribal and interethnic wars, political coups d'états, famine and decay".

With the Soviet Union's defences broken apart because of political disintegration, the country could face "nationalist and chauvinism" from Western Europe and Muslim fundamentalism from the east. However, few residents of this industrial town of 200,000, are in any need of such dire warnings to induce them to cast their ballots.

A red banner strung across the city's tree-lined central boulevard seem to speak for

virtually all Tiraspol's residents in declaring "We firmly say 'yes' to a renewed Soviet Union".

Conversions with local residents show more enthusiasm for the idea of the Soviet Union than one could detect in a year of meetings with jaded Muscovites.

At one polling station in the city centre, almost 70 per cent of voters had already cast their ballots by 10am, and most seemed happy to volunteer the comment that they could not even consider voting anything but yes.

A big part of the explanation for this pro-Soviet fervour lies of course with the perceived threat from the Moldavian nationalists on the other side of the Dniester. Built in the 1790s as a fortress of the Russian empire against the Turks who then occupied the opposite bank, Tiraspol

once again perceived itself to be under siege.

Ever since Moldavian nationalists came to power last spring in Kishinev, capital of the republic of Moldavia, and on a wave of patriotic sentiment among the republic's ethnic Romanian majority, the city of Tiraspol has been fighting a rearguard action to uphold Soviet power.

Its most spectacular move was the declaration last autumn of a new Soviet republic to be known as Trans-Dniester and supposedly holding sway over the 800,000 or so residents of the surrounding region who are overwhelmingly Russian or Ukrainian by origin.

It is not a bad little life that the people of Tiraspol feel the Soviet Union has given them, and they are grudgingly determined to hang on to it.

Censor issue gets TV newsmen sacked

Moscow — Soviet television authorities said yesterday that they had sacked three presenters of a popular news programme which last week resisted attempts to censor its reporting. *Television News Service*, broadcast three times a day, will remain on the air but the new presenters are likely to be more conservative than their predecessors.

A spokesman for state radio and television gave no reason for the dismissal of Tatyana Mitkova, Yuri Rostov and Dmitri Kiselyov. Their departure comes after the suspension of a controversial current affairs programme in January and a general tightening of restrictions on the Soviet broadcast media.

One of the dismissed presenters was reprimanded this year after reading an official account of military action against separatists in the Baltic republics and then adding: "This is the only version that we are allowed to give."

Komsomolskaya Pravda, the liberal newspaper, pointed out last week that the programme had lost some of its earlier dynamism. It said the chief editor, Olav Kakuchai, had cut out 80 per cent of the content of Monday's programme. "Yuri Rostov was on duty that day and he believed it to be his duty to refuse to appear on the air," the newspaper said. Mr Rostov was quoted as saying that "I consider the programme to have its own image. To present the news in such a mutilated way... would not be right." (Reuters)

Tough talking



Moscow — Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the German foreign minister, arrived for talks with Kremlin leaders after the conclusion of new treaties governing the Soviet Union's relations with a united Germany. He will also discuss the secret transfer to Moscow of Erich Honecker, the disgraced former East German leader. (Reuters)

Island votes yes

Moscow — More than 80 per cent of voters on the island of Wrangel, inside the Arctic circle, approved preservation of the union in the referendum. Tass said after polling closed in the Soviet Far East. Approval was expressed by 72.2 per cent in a second referendum for election by popular vote of a Russian Federation executive president. Tass did not say how many people lived on Wrangel. (AFP)

True union

Moscow — The Soviet news agency Tass said there was a symbolic link between the referendum on the future of the Soviet Union and the marriage of Vladimir Kravskiy, a Russian-Moldavian, and Gafina Kama, a German national, in the Siberian village of Novorossik. Tass said that they decided that their marriage would answer the referendum question by confirming the union. (AFP)

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السلامة العامة

Serbian leader puts the fate of his party before nation

FROM ROGER BOYES AND DESSA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE

SLOBODAN Milosevic, the politically battered Serbian leader, mumbled into the television cameras at the weekend, painted a grim picture of Yugoslavia, a Goya cartoon of a country falling apart at the seams and on the edge of a civil war. In fact, it is really Serbian Communist rule, and the personal authority of Mr Milosevic, which are disintegrating.

And it is Mr Milosevic who is deliberately unravelling Yugoslavia by walking out of the federal presidency.

Faced with an increasingly confident opposition at home, he has decided to make the sickness of communism into the death of Yugoslavia. Certainly Mr Milosevic was correct in saying that the federal presidency was paralysed. The heated rhetoric of the past few days shows plainly that the centre can no longer hold. Mr Milosevic speaks of "an anti-Serbian blockade" — a reference to the collective presidency's rejection of his plan for martial law — while the Croatian leader, Franjo Tudjman, condemns Mr Milosevic's plans for a "greater Serbia", and the army continues to press for *carte blanche* to intervene on behalf of Serb minorities in other republics.

However, Mr Tudjman, and even the Serbian oppo-

sition leader, Vuk Draskovic, emphasised that this is not an ethnic conflict; it is an ideological problem: the desperate last card of a sick communist regime.

There is only one way out of the Yugoslav problem — an agreement between Serbs and Croats. But as long as Mr Milosevic is in power this seems unlikely.

The gulf of distrust is too wide. When the Croatian representative, Stipe Mesic, arrived in Belgrade for a meeting of the Yugoslav presidency last week, he found himself in an army bus with a military escort. "Am I under arrest?" was his first question.

Mr Milosevic is getting ready to use his traditional instruments for enforcing Serbian unity. The Serbians of Knin declared their independence from Croatia at the weekend, a deliberately timed act that, if it provokes the Croats, will provide a *cassus belli* for Mr Milosevic. Another may be in the Serbian province of Kosovo, where the Serbs are putting more pressure on the Albanians.

The opposition leader, Mr Draskovic, accused the Serbian president of "spreading hatred and paranoia to rally the Serbs and save himself". Last week, it seemed, Mr Milosevic had a choice between reforming Serbian com-

munist — creating the more pluralistic system demanded by students — or police action. He has chosen the police option and there is no concept of political negotiation.

Typically, at the weekend Mr Milosevic ordered textile and steel workers to abandon a general strike planned for Monday, on the grounds that the republic was in a state of crisis.

Yet on Saturday he declared there was no need for a state of emergency. In his weekend speech he attacked Croatia and Slovenia for creating paramilitary forces, and then announced his intention to do the same.

He talked of democracy, but in effect sacked the Kosovo representative to the collective presidency for voting against martial law. These are just some of the contradictions of absolute power.

Until now, there has been a relatively cool debate about the future structure of Yugo-



Solitary splendour: Stipe Mesic, Yugoslavia's vice-president, flanked at a weekend presidential meeting by the seats of members who have resigned

slavia. The Croats and Slovenes wanted a loose federation that would dilute Serbian influence. The Serbians wanted a tighter federation that would preserve its centralised control of the economy and its dominant role in Yugoslav life.

Now, the debate has been rendered meaningless. "The resignation of Borisav Jovic from the chairmanship of the federal presidency on Friday came just as an agreement was reached on the basic functions of the future Yugoslavia," Mr

Mesic said in Zagreb. "This shows clearly that the Serbs want to prevent any agreement."

The federal government of Yugoslavia, run by the reform-minded prime minister, Ante Markovic, has become even weaker. Federal legislation is now virtually suspended in every one of the republics. All the main issues that define Yugoslavia to the outside world — its foreign trade, its economic policy — are now hopelessly blurred.

There is a slight rallying round the idea of the Yugoslav federation. In the army, for example, there is a division between Yugoslav federalists such as the defence minister, General Veljko Kadijevic, and the chief of staff, General Blagoje Adzic, who appears to be ready to use the army to prop up the communist rule of Serbia.

There are increasing calls from the republics outside Serbia that the federal army should not only be depoliticised but also scaled down. The fact is that the army's role

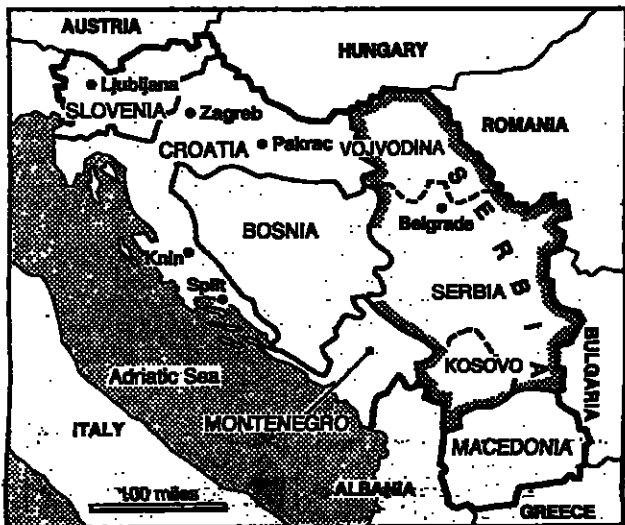
has been quietly changing over the past six months and these changes have only just come out in the open. Since there is no external role for the army, it has become a kind of weekend policeman. Three weekends ago the army intervened in Pakrac — having exaggerated the instability there — and they were deployed on the streets of Belgrade earlier this month.

The withdrawal of Serbia and two other republics from the presidency confuses the chain of military command.

Perhaps the only encouraging element to emerge from the present conflict is that the opposition is becoming increasingly Yugoslav, with bridges being built between Serbian, Slovene and Croatian dissidents.

Moreover, they are persuading many students and intellectuals that nationalism and ethnic pride must be coupled with democracy rather than with the inflexible communism of Mr Milosevic.

Collision course, page 18



MPs urge Major to see Dalai Lama

By MICHAEL KNIFE
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

AS THE Dalai Lama began a five-day visit to London yesterday, the prime minister's office made it clear that an all-party appeal for Mr Major to meet the Tibetan leader would be rejected.

Twenty MPs and peers appealed to the prime minister to reconsider, saying it was difficult to understand how he could urge the Chinese to meet the Dalai Lama but refuse to himself.

They said a start should be made in implementing United Nations resolutions calling for self-determination for Tibet, passed after its invasion by China in 1950.

China has protested because the Tibetan leader will be a special guest at an environmental conference to be addressed by the Prince of Wales and a parliamentary meeting which will be chaired by Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor. The Foreign Office replied that his visit

Albania releases political prisoners

Vienna — Albania has freed 42 political prisoners from its most feared labour camp, as part of a pledge to release 175 people arbitrarily incarcerated in what human rights monitors call the worst prisons in Eastern Europe.

Albania had billed the release as a fulfilment of its promise to free all political prisoners from the jails in which hundreds, maybe thousands, died in 46 years of Stalinist rule.

A witness of the release, from Burrel, reputedly the most severe jail, said, however, that the freed men had claimed that 26 more political inmates were left inside who had gone on hunger strike to demand their freedom. The authorities had said 123 political prisoners would be included in the 175 to be released at the weekend. (AP)

Women leading

Oslo — Karin Caslie Kullmann Fjor, has said she is willing to take over the Conservative Party, the second largest, from Jan Syse after the collapse of its coalition government last year. Norway would then be almost certainly the only country in the western world with two main parties led by women.

Cooper setback

Hopes of an early release for Roger Cooper, the Briton jailed in Iran for alleged spying, were dashed when a senior official in Tehran said he would not be freed until he had served his full sentence. This has never been specified.

Aids child toll

Harare — Between 25 and 30 per cent of all people who die from Aids in Zimbabwe are children, Archbishop Patrick Chakaipa, the country's Roman Catholic primate, told a church health workshop here. (Reuters)

Called out

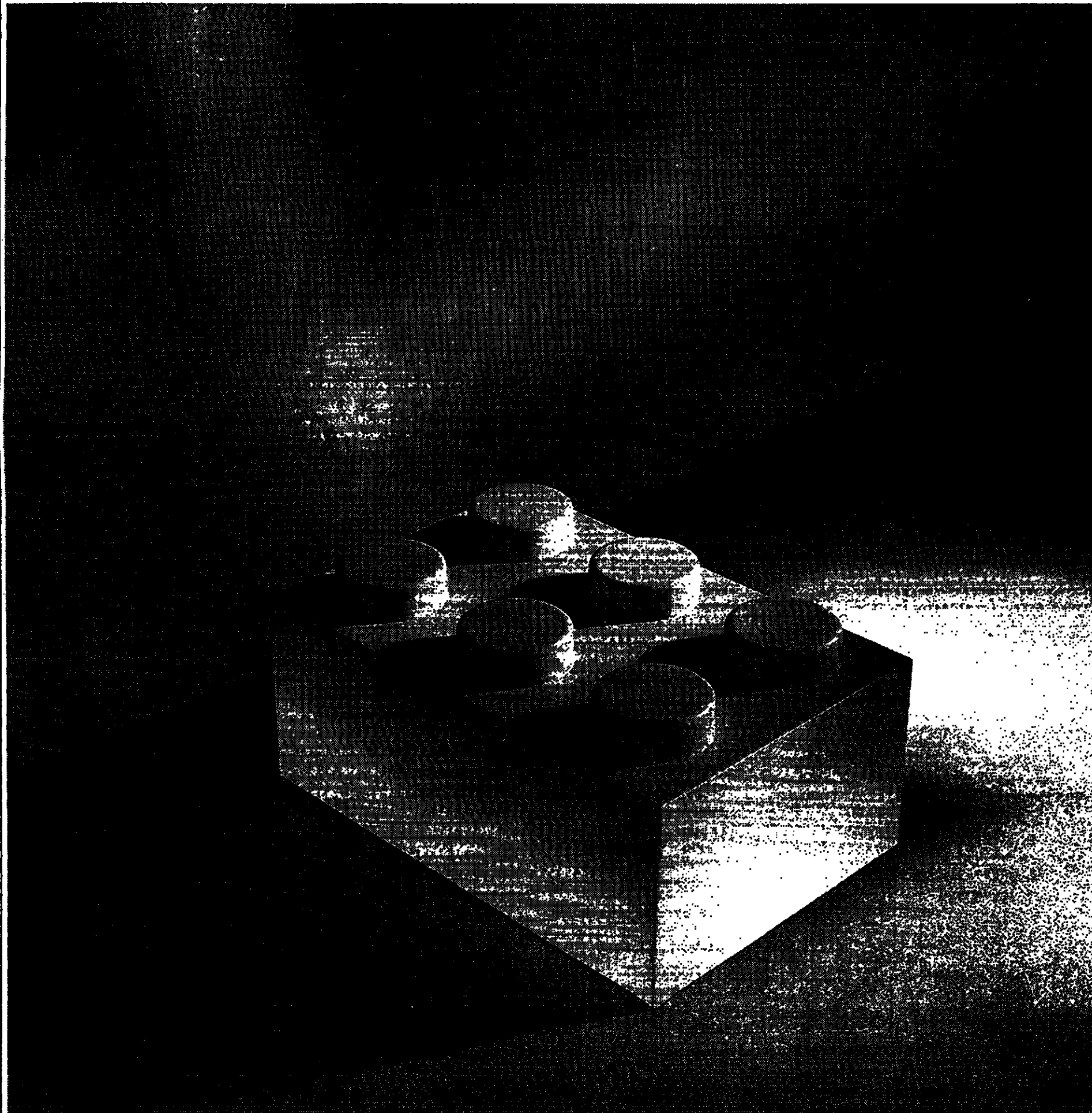
Delhi — Operators on the city's telephone network staged an overnight strike, saying that a colleague had been insulted for cutting off a government minister to put a trunk call through to him, newspapers said. (Reuters)



Dalai Lama: embarking on five-day tour

was private and it voiced concern over human rights abuses in Tibet.

Lord Ennals, president of the all-party group for Tibet, contested the government's view that Tibet enjoyed autonomy from China. "I can personally testify to the fact that Tibet is a slave state in which people are shot, detained and tortured for their belief in freedom," he said.



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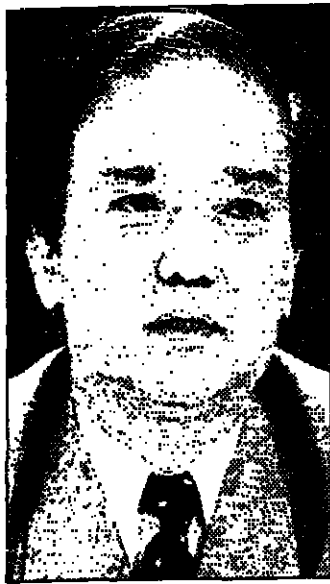
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Billions rain down on voters as Kaifu opens the war chests



Kaifu: no need for personal donations to election funds

JAPAN'S political money machine has started to purr. Politicians have donned pious expressions and white gloves and have begun handing out cash-stuffed envelopes to any voter who will give them the time of day. What promise to be viciously competitive gubernatorial and prefectural elections are to be held on April 7. The ruling Liberal Democratic Party is expected to spend an estimated £4 billion on the elections.

Nagatacho, Tokyo's equivalent of Westminster, is echoing with rumours of well-stocked political war chests, for Japan's multi-member constituencies allow the LDP to nominate several competing candidates for each prefectural race. Politicians will be pitted against each other.

For a Japanese politician, money overwhelms everything.

With Japanese elections only weeks away, Joanna Pitman examines campaigning methods in which big spending rather than sound policies wins most votes

"Unfortunately political policies or ideas count for little - he who raises and spends most money usually wins. The LDP claims to be reforming money politics, but they always manage to skirt the rules and conceal their funds," said Takeshi Sasaki, professor of political science at Tokyo University.

The political money season kicked off last month with time-honoured duplicity with the public announcement of cabinet ministers' personal assets. To-shiki Kaifu, the prime minister, revealed a puny (by prime ministerial standards) personal worth

of 110 million yen (£440,000) in property and stocks. However, the true market value of his investments is estimated to be 1.09 billion yen and that of a third of his cabinet colleagues is over 1 billion yen.

There is no need for Mr Kaifu or his ministers, however, to liquidate their large portfolios to contribute to the £4 billion. Other, larger treasure chests have been prepared during the past six months by the ruling LDP's top-performing *kinkoban* (guardians of the coffers). The LDP's secretary-general, Ichiro Ozawa, is Japan's acknowledged king of all

kinkoban, and to him falls the task of coaxing an estimated 50 billion yen a year from each of Japan's multinational companies.

By all accounts, corporate Japan is delighted to oblige Mr Ozawa and his colleagues; for the 36-year reign of the LDP has ensured the maintenance of policies which the business establishment has asked for to make the nation's non-inflationary economy grow and grow.

The generous contributions from these companies will be behind every LDP candidate in the April elections. The party says it plans to put up some 1,800 candidates.

Political experts estimate that LDP candidates standing for the closely contested Tokyo and Osaka governorships will each spend 5 billion yen, and each LDP candidate in prefectural

constituencies 500 million yen. Foreigners rightly wonder where such sums will go. The costs of administration and advertising posters (political advertising on television is prohibited) account for only a tiny proportion. The rest is spent on hiring halls and campaign staff to turn out the voters, arranging transport and serving food and drink.

Japan's impecunious opposition parties, which rely for their limited support on unions or religious groups, have little chance to compete on the campaign trail.

Politicians must see to the needs of their voters, and in Japan this can involve anything from paying private school fees to buying electronic gadgets. Money will be scattered along LDP campaign trails like confetti. One vote can be bought for a CD player. The bosses of large

yakuza gangs (Japan's mafia) whose members vote as they are told, are regularly overwhelmed with visits from politicians at election time. The going rate for the block vote of a 10,000 member gang, for example, is 100 million yen - the cash happens to fit snugly into a single Suntory whisky presentation box.

Paradoxically, the LDP keeps the opposition parties financially solvent. "It would be reasonable to suppose that the LDP does to give money to the opposition, to ensure the quick and efficient passage of bills through the Diet passage of bills through the Diet," said Yoshiharu Shimada, secretary to the LDP member and *kinkoban*, Toshio Yamaguchi.

Thanks to the careful priming of the opposition, 92 per cent of LDP bills submitted to the Diet are passed without a hitch within six months of drafting.

American troops to stay in Gulf as Iraq revolt spreads

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Stone, the American army secretary, said during a visit to Saudi Arabia yesterday that US troops would stay in the region beyond July. The number of American army personnel had dropped by only 10,000 to 295,000, and replacement troops were still arriving. Mr Stone said in Dhahran. He added that a timetable for withdrawal had not yet been worked out.

The withdrawal of coalition forces from the Gulf now looks set to become a drawn-out affair. While the troops want to go home, there are two elements which are preventing the majority of them from leaving: the absence of a proper ceasefire agreement with Iraq and increasing alarm over President Saddam Hussein's brutal suppression of rebel forces in his country.

In spite of much publicised home-coming in the United States and Britain, those who have left the war zone represent only a tiny proportion of the 700,000 coalition soldiers, sailors, and airmen, who helped to defeat the Iraqi forces.

The troops of Britain's 7th Armoured Brigade are among the lucky ones who have been allowed to leave. It is acknowledged, however, that the 4th Armoured Brigade might have to remain longer than originally planned, and replacement troops from the British army in Germany may have to be sent to man the tanks and guns while the region remains unstable, according to British sources.

While most senior military officials believe that Saddam

will not survive as leader, nobody feels sure enough to predict when his downfall will come. So far, he has confounded those who wished him the earliest of retirements by hanging on to power and putting down with brute force those who oppose him.

Optimists among the coalition forces who thought that overwhelming military defeat would bring about his political, if not personal, demise, based their assessment on the fact that he had lost the bulk of his power base, notably the Republican Guard, during the war. The latest intelligence assessment is, however, that the equivalent of about three divisions of the Republican Guard might have survived the conflict. Of the eight divisions that existed before the war, one remained in Baghdad to protect Saddam and the Revolutionary Command Council.

The other two divisions are made up from the Republican Guards who managed to escape across the Euphrates, either before the US 7th Corps arrived to cut them off or during the subsequent tank battle. However, the two divisions are thought to be under strength.

According to the intelligence assessment, the Iraqi leader still has about 2,145 tanks, 39 per cent of his total stocks before the war, including those that were not committed to the Kuwaiti theatre of operations. He also has about 1,440 artillery pieces and possibly 3,000 armoured personnel carriers.

One British military source said: "That's enough to shore up his regime provided the

troops are loyal to him. That must be a debatable point, but the Republican Guard will remain loyal. Saddam can still count on them because they know that without him in power, they will not keep their high wages and special privileges."

Allied commanders are satisfied that Saddam would be incapable of mounting any offensive outside his borders. The ruthless way in which he has used his soldiers, tanks, and guns against rebel units has, however, forced the allies to rethink both the ceasefire arrangements and the timetable for sending troops home.

The US 7th Corps, in defensive positions in occupied southern Iraq, has been told to keep on the move, as a demonstration of American readiness to carry out any new orders. The US naval presence has been reduced but there are still up to 100 warships in the area compared with 120 during hostilities.

France appears to have a more precise withdrawal timetable. About 1,500 French soldiers will be leaving with their tanks on board ships from Yanbu today, and another regiment is due to leave in a week's time. A French military spokesman here said most of the 13,000 troops would have left by the end of May.

The British government's stated policy is that no ground troops would remain on a permanent basis, but arrangements are expected to be made for fighter aircraft to be stationed in the area, probably in Bahrain.

Letters, page 11



Hard shoulder: John Major leaning on the back of a Bahraini policeman as he signed autographs during his visit to St George at the weekend. The prime minister attended a summit with President Bush to discuss peace in the Gulf

Kuwait pledges election in a year

FROM JAMIE DETTMER IN KUWAIT CITY

DEMOCRATIC elections will be held in Kuwait within a year, Dr Abdul Rahman al-Awad, the Kuwaiti minister for cabinet affairs, said yesterday. He insisted that the introduction of democratic reform was one of the highest priorities in the country's reconstruction plan.

The minister dismissed opposition claims that the ruling al-Sabah family would ignore promises to reinstate parliament. "It will happen," he said. "Elections will happen in six months, a year

maximum. Elections and parliament are coming back as soon as they can. This is an obligation for the government and there is no going back on that. This is what the Crown Prince has said once, twice, three times."

The strength of the comments delighted Western diplomats, who still believe that pressure should be exerted on the government to ensure that elections take place.

Leaders of the seven main opposition factions have claimed that the al-Sabah

family is divided over the reintroduction of the 1962 constitution, which allows for reform of parliamentary democracy. They have alleged that six junior members of the ruling family have been forming militias to intimidate the opposition.

The 1962 constitution was suspended in 1986 by the government after a series of Shia-inspired bombings and assassination attempts on the Emir of Kuwait and the Crown Prince. Critics say that the suspension really occurred

because an enquiry into the collapse of the unofficial stock exchange was beginning to implicate fringe members of the ruling family.

Dr Abdul Rahman al-Awad admitted last night that there were still law and order problems in Kuwait. He confirmed that shootings and skirmishes were taking place at night in several areas of the capital. He would not say who was responsible for the shootings, but he acknowledged that there were problems between Palestinians and Kuwaitis and that some Palestinians were missing.

"We are in an aftermath of a war that has made people trigger-happy," he said. A new firearms law would soon be introduced.

International Red Cross representatives say privately that hundreds of Palestinians have been seized by Kuwaiti and Saudi soldiers and by members of the Kuwaiti resistance. Some of those seized appear several hours or days later after having received severe beatings. "I don't think that there has been any purposeful torture by the government," the minister said.

"Palestinians are close to the heart of Kuwaitis. But we know some helped the Iraqis."

Letters, page 11

Rebels reject Saddam claim

FROM REUTERS IN DAMASCUS

IRAQI opposition leaders yesterday disputed President Saddam Hussein's statement that his army had crushed an uprising in the mainly Shia south and challenged him to hold a referendum on his rule. "Saddam should resign. If he has the least interest in preserving Iraq he should resign today rather than tomorrow," Jalal Talabani, head of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, said. He said Saddam's claim in a speech on Saturday that the southern uprising had been crushed was "as true as his claim that he

scored a victory against the allies."

Rebellions against the Iraqi leader's rule broke out in the south and in the Kurdish north soon after the Gulf war ended. In his speech, Saddam said the southern revolt had been crushed and he vowed that the Kurdish rebellion would also be stamped out. In interviews with Reuters in Damascus, leaders of Shia Muslim and Kurdish groups contested these statements and Saddam's promises of democracy.

They said most Iraqi cities

were now in rebel hands, and one said rebel troops were marching on Baghdad from the southwest. Ayatollah Taqi al-Mudarresi, head of the Shia Islamic Action Organisation, said Saddam's promises of democracy were "only flagrant lies that would not deceive anybody."

"We challenge Saddam Hussein to organise a referendum among the Iraqis on his rule and we are sure he would not find more than 20 people support him," he said that Saddam's claim that the rebels came from Iran was untrue.

US film stirs up black culture of death

Gabriel Williams, a New Yorker aged 19, went to see a new film called *New Jack City* last weekend and died in a hail of automatic fire at the cinema after he and another youth pulled their guns to settle an argument. In Chicago two groups exchanged fire outside the cinema after watching the same film and in Los Angeles, 1,500 black youths rioted after they were turned away from a cinema where it was showing.

The fights around the country at showings of *New Jack City*, a slick tale of life in New York's drug world, have highlighted an alarming report on the culture of death now reigning among young blacks and Hispanics in American cities. More black teenagers are now dying from gunfire than from natural causes, according to a report by Dr Louis Sullivan, the secretary of health, who is black.

"During every 100 hours on our streets we lose more young men than

were killed in 100 hours of ground war in the Persian Gulf," he said. "The leading killer of young black males is young black males. This is a war against ourselves and it is devastating our communities." Deaths from gun shots among American teenagers had risen 40 per cent in four years and black youths are 11 times more likely to be victims than white youths.

Dr Sullivan said the carnage was due to drugs, violent films and one-parent homes.

His view is challenged by many black activists who blame white prejudice and police brutality. According to polls, about a third of American blacks believe that there may be some truth in the militants' argument of militants that white America has deliberately imposed drugs and social breakdown on blacks in order to exterminate the race.

New Jack City is the latest and most glossy in a new genre of films

that glorifies the "hip hop" black street culture. Although its hero is a young black policeman, the drug-dealers embody the style and attitude now most fashionable among city blacks, complete with expensive jeans and heavy gold jewellery.

Dr Sullivan's report came out in a week that saw the United States take racial sides over the widely publicised beating of Rodney King, a black man, by white police in Los Angeles. The attack, which was recorded on videotape by a witness and has since been shown hundreds of times on television, has inflamed black anger towards police in Los Angeles and other American cities.

The video showed the officers pounding the unarmed Mr King with long truncheons, kicking him and using a stun gun after stopping him at the end of what they said was a 100mph car chase. Mr King, aged 25, had a previous conviction for violent robbery but appeared to offer no resistance to the police. On

Thursday, Daryl Gates, the white Los Angeles police chief, appeared in front of a near hysterical crowd demanding his resignation, and a grand jury indicted the four officers involved. In Washington, the Justice Department said it would, for the first time in its history, investigate whether there was a pattern of police brutality in American cities, a charge levelled by civil liberties activists.

The city of Los Angeles paid out \$8 million (£4.3 million) in compensation to victims of police misconduct in the past year alone.

While nobody has sought to justify the Los Angeles police attack, commentators have been trying to put it in perspective. Patrick Buchanan, a conservative columnist, noted that most whites see the police as "our troops" at war with a violent enemy embodied by Mr King.

Charles Bremner

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A BUDGET FOR RECOVERY

Britain is in the midst of its second serious recession since the Conservatives took office in 1979, and one for which the government cannot shift the blame. Yet the Chancellor has a strangely enviable job tomorrow, for in the depths of a recession political expediency and economic wisdom coincide. In his first Budget, Norman Lamont can do well by his country, by his party and even by his putative economic ideology, all at the same time.

He should be able to offer moderate tax cuts, targeted increases in public spending and a full percentage point off interest rates if not on Budget day then within the next week. He will be able to do this without risk to the government's over-zealous anti-inflation stance. And he may actually strengthen the pound's position in the European exchange-rate mechanism (ERM) by including in his Budget a promise to bring sterling within the greater disciplines of the ERM's narrow bands.

Yet after the laudatory headlines are read and forgotten, both Mr Lamont and his boss, John Major, will have to pass a tougher economic and political test. They will have to convince the electorate that the recession was an unavoidable consequence of some mishap for which the Tories should not be blamed, and that recovery is imminent. This task has been made more difficult by five years, roughly from 1986 to the present, in which the government's economic objectives have seemed wholly confused.

Since Nigel Lawson abandoned Thatcherism's monetarist framework and opted instead for a quasi-fixed exchange rate, a government which had been committed to an Olympian detachment of economics from politics has been practising stop-go policies with a panache that would have put Reginald Maudling, Roy Jenkins and Denis Healey to shame. Economic management has been the "one-club" variety, relying on interest rates alone to manage demand. Meanwhile, the main domestic indicator used to determine the level of interest rates has been a retail price index of truly primitive inadequacy, which ministers themselves admit exaggerates the inflationary pressures within the economy.

The decision to enter the ERM last October was supposed to provide a clear new discipline, as Margaret Thatcher put it, "because ministers couldn't be trusted to control things themselves". It has brought back all the old confidence busters of the 1960s Treasury. The Chancellor has had to spend the past six months putting his credibility among foreign exchange dealers before the needs of the domestic economy, and blaming "international" forces for the Wilsonian-style "supernatural" forces which have been "carried" by it. He has emphasised containing an inflation rate which was already coming down.

There must be a serious review not just of the adequacy of the relevant indicators, but of the contact between the ever more isolated world of ministers and officials and the life of business and commerce of which they have so little experience. This is the burden of the charge against the economic management of which John Major has been custodian, first as Chancellor, then as prime minister. Any promise from Mr Lamont that the go that is to follow the latest stop will not be followed by another stop if sterling comes "under threat" will be viewed with some suspicion by those who longed for markets not political confidence to be the key to economic management.

Britain may now be entering an upswing in both the trade and the Treasury policy cycles. The Chancellor tomorrow will presumably offer a monetary and fiscal stimulus which he considers both appropriate and prudent. The question his speech must answer is: what are to be the criteria for judging appropriateness and prudence? Are Budget judgments to be determined, as they

should be, by the amount of spare capacity in the economy, the state of stocks, the level of (properly monitored) unemployment and the need to promote non-inflationary recovery? Or will they still be determined by a psychological cut-and-thrust game between the Bank of England and the foreign exchange markets?

In the past six months the foreign exchange dealers and the dictators of the ERM have come first. This has cost thousands of jobs. But amid all this bloodshed, the Chancellor has at least won the credibility he hoped for. He should exploit this credibility to the full. Without consumer confidence there can be no economic recovery in the short term. Without business confidence, investment, which has already been the recession's worst victim, will remain depressed and the hopes, once so dear to Conservatives, for deep structural improvement in the supply side of the economy will be disappointed.

Fiscal policy should therefore be seen to favour expansion. If this means a PSBR higher than the £10 billion forecast by the City, the Chancellor need not apologise. A deficit of less than 2 per cent of GDP at the bottom of a recession can be financed without putting pressure on interest rates. Concern that higher domestic savings are needed to narrow the nation's current account deficit has been made less urgent by the huge upward revision in Britain's invisible earnings announced last week. In deciding on detailed measures, the Chancellor should also give priority to industrial investment and employment creation.

But interest rates will lie at the heart of this Budget judgment. They need to be cut, and cut aggressively. The Chancellor may not be confident enough to make as dramatic a gesture as Sir Geoffrey Howe did in his celebrated 1981 Budget. But if consumers and businessmen are to be convinced that recovery is at hand, it must be clear that much lower interest rates are a near-certainty within the next few months, and not just a mirage on a hypothetical horizon. At risk are thousands of heavily indebted companies and individuals, many of them the firms so laboriously coaxed into productive life in the 1980s and now facing ruin.

Eventually Britain's real economic ills — inflation-feeding cartels, inadequate education and the distortions in housing and financial markets — will again stagger into view. These are the true causes of inflation and unemployment. Far too many have survived unscathed after 12 years of Thatcherism. Indiscriminate measures of manufacturing capacity and of skilled labour, however unreliable the measuring tools, seem actually to have worsened under the Conservatives, perhaps because of their devotion to high exchange rates. This is why most long-term forecasts of post-ERM Britain assume the permanent acceptance of 2 to 2½ million unemployed, and a fringe economy exporting employment to its high-investment neighbours.

The combating of inflation requires the same medicine as it always did, the same as was prescribed in 1979 to end the stop-go policies of the past. That medicine was action against trade unions and other monopolies, deregulation of markets, breaking up of nationalised and quasi-nationalised cartels. It is early days for Mr Major and Mr Lamont, but the evidence of the past six months is of the two of them flying by the seat of the Treasury's pants. Hope of renewed supply-side vigour must probably await another general election and set the agenda for the next parliament. Meanwhile, the Chancellor's main priority is clear. To paraphrase Bagehot, he must cut interest rates, cut boldly and go on cutting, until the economy is palpably bouncing back.

RISKING LIFE AND LIMB

The Western democracies are in a mood to be generous towards their servicemen. After the triumph in the Gulf, America is determined not to repeat its shabby treatment of its soldiers after Vietnam. Only a bold Congressman would dare oppose the plethora of proposals for assistance to military families who have suffered financially as a result of the war. In Britain, John Major is anxious to bring back the troops with all possible despatch, in a manner befitting heroes. The Gulf Trust, to help needy dependents, has raised £1.3 million.

One group of ex-servicemen can be forgiven for feeling resentful at all this. Under section 10 of the 1947 Crown Proceedings Act, military personnel were prevented from suing the state for injury they received as a result of their employers' negligence. The Crown's immunity in this regard was removed under the 1987 Crown Proceedings (Armed Forces) Act, so that any who now suffer can sue, like their civilian counterparts. That Act, however, does not apply retrospectively. Those who were affected between 1947 and 1986 have been left to the tender mercies of ex gratia government help. One such is Martin Ketterick, paralysed from the waist down as a result of a services accident 11 years ago, whose story is reported on the news pages.

Nobody can predict how many others would win a case against the Crown. What is sure is that, with the passage of time, there will be fewer and fewer, as the victims die. Their position, however, has become more and more anomalous. Where the compensation payable to those suffering civilian misfortune has increased hugely, the ex-servicemen have had to bear an onerous poverty on top of their other misfortunes.

And now they find that they are deprived of proper recompense only because they had the ill luck to be hurt too early, before the amending Act was passed.

An energetic campaign on their behalf has been waged by MPs of all parties, including such respected figures as Jack Ashley and Terence Higgins. During Mrs Thatcher's premiership, they got no change out of the government once the 1987 act was passed. Ministers insisted that servicemen be bound by the law as it was at the time of their disablement; general reform of benefits to the disabled was the only hope they held out. Mrs Thatcher dismissed a suggestion from Mr Ashley that a special Government fund be set up to help them saying that "the difficulties are insurmountable".

They always are when the government does not want to do something. Yet under Mr Major, yesterday's insurmountable difficulties have sometimes become today's trivial objections. Thus, haemophiliacs who caught AIDS as a result of NHS blood transfusions, denied compensation by Mrs Thatcher, have been granted it by Mr Major, to near-universal applause.

Of course, the government must not be a soft touch for every good cause in town. Of course, it must protect the public purse. Of course it must not enter a crude political auction for the caring vote. But only ministers who have for too long been insulated from hardship and pain could fail to see that the plight of these people is a priority. More than that, it is a moral obligation. Mr Major should pick up the Ministry of Defence's fat file on the issue and initial it at once with Winston Churchill's immortal phrase: "Action this day."

Outcome of Birmingham Six ruling

From Mr P. R. E. Double

Sir, In the wake of the decision on the Birmingham Six (report, March 15) there have been numerous calls for urgent legislation to require the corroboration of confession evidence.

The technicality of the law of corroboration is widely regarded as unsatisfactory. Under the Criminal Justice Act 1988 Parliament abolished the requirements relating to corroboration which existed for children's evidence.

Last year the Law Commission reviewed the law of corroboration generally and recommended that the process of abolition should be extended to most of the other areas of English law where corroboration requirements currently arise.

The commission recognised that certain categories of potentially suspect evidence should be subject to a check but did not think that corroboration was the way to provide it.

The hasty promotion of legislation to impose corroboration requirements on confession evidence is therefore unlikely to yield satisfactory results.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL DOUBBLE,
PO Box 270, EC2,
March 15.

From Mr Michael Cohen

Sir, With all the furor over the shortcomings of the Court of Appeal it should not be overlooked that 16 years ago a "jury of their peers"

convicted the Birmingham Six, that 12 people listened to six defendants who were telling the truth on oath and disbelieved them, and to several police officers who were lying and whom they believed.

As a practising solicitor for more than 30 years I am convinced that the jury system is a farce. The matter of guilt or innocence is not based upon the criteria of what actually happened when the crime was committed, and by whom, but by what the jury decide must have happened, basing their collective opinion upon what occurred, often years earlier, by listening to people giving evidence in the artificial atmosphere of a courtroom and to barristers who are skilled in the art of arguing from only one point of view.

Since the jury, at the end of the proceedings, decide their verdict in private and do not give reasons for their decision, it is impossible to know whether or not any verdict is reached by sensible and logical thought.

Modern democracies use a jury system. One of the exceptions is the USA where, judging by their awards, for example, in medical negligence claims, the force of the jury system is exposed as even greater than here.

Yours faithfully,
M. COHEN,
Cohen & Nicker (solicitors),
4b/4c Warwick Court,
Shirland Mews, Maida Vale, W9,
March 15.

Black-out warning

From Mr A. Manders

Sir, Seen on an office notice board: "Owing to the present financial constraints, the light at the end of the tunnel has been turned off."

Yours faithfully,
A. MANDERS,
Lancel House, Evesham Street,
Alderley, Warwickshire,
March 8.

Scholarly values

From Dr Stefan C. Reif

Sir, As one who has for a number of years headed a division in a major research library as well as a project to conserve, study and publicise some 140,000 manuscript fragments from the Middle Ages, I have consistently proposed the balance of scholarship and enterprise in museums and libraries for which you rightly call (leading article, "Scholars in glass cases", March 5). I have regularly encountered two major difficulties in maintaining it.

There is the practical problem of funding even a few assistant hours to maintain a service while a scholarly curator pursues both academic excellence and his routine responsibilities. Without such excellence, what he has to offer the general public is likely to be speculative and shallow, even with it, a talent for presentation is required.

Secondly, other academics find it hard to recognise a curator's efforts on behalf of special collections. As long as scholars draw artificial distinctions between their own research and the systematic analysis of such collections, the eminently talented specialist is unlikely to be attracted to a post in a museum or academic library.

Yours faithfully,
STEFAN C. REIF,
(Director, Genizah Research Unit),
University of Cambridge,
West Road, Cambridge.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Sale of weapons to Middle East

From Mr Peter Marsh

Sir, Secretary of State Baker visits Jerusalem to prod the Israelis towards the new world order proclaimed in Washington by President Bush (report, March 12). At the same time there are unconfirmed news reports (March 6, later editions) that President Assad of Syria has gone shopping for Scud C missiles from North Korea. No doubt he is spending much of the \$3 billion received for joining the Allied coalition.

So much for platitudes and public relations. Political realities have a harder edge to them. If there is to be a genuine attempt to bring stability to the Middle East, a freeze on arms supplies is an essential precondition.

Now that the Gulf war is over, can one assume that Syria will consider itself free to continue its activities as the paymaster of Abu Nidal and other terrorists?

Yours faithfully,
PETER MARSH,
136 Park Road, Chiswick, W4,
March 12.

From Mr M. Kahtan

Sir, It was most disturbing to learn from your March 12 report from Jordan that Mr Douglas Hogg had decided that it was inappropriate to discuss the Lockerbie outrage during his talks with the Syrians in Damascus.

The time is here and now and the issue should not be fudged any more; or are we to understand that

the long-treasured policy of appeasing the Arabs so vigorously pursued by the Foreign Office in the past is being relaunched, even whilst the British blood spilled on the Arabian desert as a result is still warm?

Yours sincerely,
M. KAHTAN,
32 The Green,
Ewell, Epsom, Surrey,
March 12.

From Dr Vivienne Cohen

Sir, The Reverend Anthony Maggs (March 9) writes that now is the time to set a binding limit to the kind of arms traffic we have seen and supported. On the same day I received a letter from a friend who is a medical officer with the armed forces in Kuwait. He writes:

"Even the dramatic pictures you see on TV grossly underestimate how terrible it actually is. The sight of literally thousands of mutilated Iraqi dead makes me question all the more why it should have come to this."

"I think there is something very wrong with the world in allowing the arms trade to dominate the economy of so many nations. It was especially poignant to see where much of the wrecked Iraqi hardware had come from (most of western Europe, USA, and USSR). It breaks my heart to think we gave Saddam the means to bring such destruction to his people."

Yours sincerely,
VIVIANNE COHEN,
St Bartholomew's Hospital,
Department of Psychological Medicine,
West Smithfield, EC1,
March 11.

From the President and the Past President of the Royal Academy of Arts

Sir, We understand that several hundred journalists were accredited to Allied forces to cover the Gulf war. There was only one war artist. Why was this? Have we forgotten the moving records of World War I left us by Augustus John, Charles Nicholson, Paul Nash and Stanley Spencer? The white sidings that came from Bawden Ravilious and Ardizzone in World War II? The drawings of the Falklands by Linda Kitson?

How does the Ministry of Defence defend such pathetic inaction? Why did not the Imperial War Museum insist on being remembered? Is it perhaps not too late to send others to depict the fantastic debris of the desert war lit by everlasting fires?

Yours faithfully,
ROGER DE GRAY, President,
HUGH CASSON,
Past President,
Royal Academy of Arts,
Piccadilly, W1.

(March 11) claim that "there is something faintly ridiculous about an unelected prince lecturing us on the merits of electoral systems..." The peevishness of these gentlemen, picking on a brief, unprepared aside, makes them ridiculous.

Most public engagements that the prince undertakes and most of the people he meets have political connections. He walks every day through a political minefield and it is a wonder that he so rarely puts a foot wrong, with journalists doing their best to trip him up.

Members of the Radical Society may want the royal family to be a set of automata wheeled out on ceremonial occasions, with no minds of their own; but I think the majority of the British people prefer them the way they are — intelligent, interested, caring and responsive — and forgive an occasional slip of the tongue.

Yours faithfully,
ANGUS MACKINTOSH,
St Algars Farm, West Woodlands,
Frome, Somerset,
March 11.

From Mr R. T. Oerton

Sir, According to the Radical Society, "to declare in favour of one electoral system when it is well known that there is a marked difference of opinion between the political parties on the issue is nothing short of entering into party political debate."

To many of us, the Prince of Wales seems habitually to speak for common decency and common fairness. Is he to be silenced merely because there are political parties which choose, for their own advantage, to reject these values?

Yours faithfully,
R. T. OERTON,
84 Burghley Road, NW5,
March 11.

From Miss Patricia Allderidge

Sir, Lying beneath the foundations of Liverpool Street station is a name perfectly suited to a commuter terminal. It is built over the site of the original Bedlam.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICIA ALLDERIDGE
(Archivist and curator),
The Bethlem Royal Hospital,
Monks Orchard Road,
Beckenham, Kent,
March 12.

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Older contributors

From Captain Denis Hetherington

Sir, With regard to letters (March 9, 15) concerning the older generation favouring wars "that leave them no nearer (to the action) than the television set", whether they favour war or not several of an older generation were close to the action in support of operation "Desert Storm".

I was piloting a civilian Boeing 707 which, with others, was flying military supplies into the forward supply base at Al Jubayl, Saudi Arabia, before and during the war in the Gulf. My co-pilot is 59, flight engineer 65, and myself merely 57. To my knowledge other flight-deck crew had men as old as 69.

When a campaign medal is issued I hope that civilian aircrews, some of whom saw action at extremely close quarters, will not be forgotten.

Yours faithfully,
DENIS HETHERINGTON,
The Granary Barn,
Pound Green Lane,
Shipham, Norfolk,
March 15.

The role of royalty

From Mr John Aimers

Sir, Last month's controversy over the behaviour of some members of the royal family in the face of the Gulf war was particularly unhappy and unsettling for those of us in Canada who have seen the constitutional monarchy emerge over the last two decades as one of the sole unifying forces within our troubled and quarrelsome Dominion.

The "minor royals" — and the sensational press who distort royal activities in general — might do well to remember that in Canada we do not enjoy the benefit of a resident monarch. We lack a constant royal presence whose actions, common sense and general visibility on a daily basis help to overcome and place in proportion the excesses of its fringe figures.

Distorted news accounts from the UK regularly appear as gospel truth in Canadian media, who do not have court correspondents and whose royal reportage is derivative.

As Canada seeks to work out its destiny, the role of the monarchy is again being questioned. More than ever the Crown needs to be seen as a useful symbol, an icon, a fixed centre of stability in a changing world. It is a pity for the actions of the self-indulgent few to place in jeopardy all that the Queen and her family have done, and have yet to do, in and for our land.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN L. AIMERS
(Dominion Chairman,
The Monarchist League of Canada),
c/o Appleby College,
Oakville, Ontario, Canada,
March 12.

From Mr Angus Mackintosh

Sir, The chairman and the executive director of the Radical Society

From Dr R. A. H. Pool

Sir, The chairman of the Milk Marketing Board, Mr Steven (March 12) really should pull the other one.

British farms produce less milk than Britons consume as milk and dairy products. Our market is on our own doorstep. The board system is destroying this market. Doorstep sales fell 8 per cent in the last quarter, mainly transferred to supermarkets where prices are lower.

Farmers fear change; they fear loss of the board monopoly which alone enables the board to sell milk for butter and cheese at 16p a litre, European prices, whilst charging 25p a litre for milk for drinking.

Yours sincerely,
RICHARD POOL,
Higher Trayne, Ilfracombe, Devon,
March 12.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071 782 5046).



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 16: The Prince Edward this afternoon attended the England v France International Rugby Match at the Rugby Football Union, Twickenham.

His Royal Highness was received on arrival by the President Rugby Football Union (Captain M.A. Percy, RN).

His Royal Highness later attended the Rugby Football Union Dinner in honour of the French Rugby Team at the London Hilton Hotel, Park Lane, W1.

Lieutenant Colonel Sean O'Dwyer was in attendance.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 16: This morning the Princess Royal opened Fairview House, Bridge of Don, Aberdeen and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for the City of Aberdeen (Mr Robert Robertson, the Lord Provost).

Afterwards Her Royal Highness, Patron, Scottish Rugby Union, attended the Scotland v Ireland International Match at Murrayfield and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for the City of Edinburgh (Mrs Eleanor McLaughlin, the Right Hon the Lord Provost).

Mrs David Bowes Lyon was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
March 16: Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester today was present at the First Annual

Reunion of the East Midlands Shires Women's Section of the Royal British Legion on the occasion of the 70th Anniversary at the Pavilion Gardens, Burton, Derbyshire.

Her Royal Highness was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Derbyshire (Colonel Peter Hilton).

Mrs Michael Harvey was in attendance.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 17: This afternoon the Queen Mother, President, Federation Equestre Internationale, left Heathrow Airport, London to attend the Federation Equestre Internationale Bureau Meeting and General Assembly in Tokyo.

Mrs Timothy Holderness-Roddam was in attendance.

CLARENCE HOUSE
March 17: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother this morning presented Shamrock to the Irish Guards at the occasion of St Patrick's Day.

The Lady Angela Oswald, Major Sir Ralph Aspinwall, Lt and Captain Conolly Morris-Adams were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
March 17: The Duchess of Gloucester, Colonel-in-Chief, Royal Irish Rangers, today visited the 2nd Battalion for the St Patrick's Day Parade in Lemgo, Germany.

Mrs Euan McCorquodale and Major Nicholas Barne were in attendance.

Today's royal engagement

The Princess of Wales, President of the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, will lay the foundation stone for the redevelopment of the hospital at 10.30.

Birthdays today

Professor Alexander Boksenberg, director, Royal Greenwich Observatory, 55; Major D.H. Butler, Lord Lieutenant of Perth and Kinross, 71; Mr J.P. Dawson, trades unionist, 51; Miss Lois Dyer, international physiotherapy consultant, 66; Mr P. Eddery, jockey, 39; Sir William Fraser, principal and vice-chancellor, Glasgow University, 62; Sir Peter Harrop, civil servant, 65; Mr Alex Higgins, snooker player, 42; Mr Patrick Kavanagh, former deputy commissioner, Metropolitan Police, 68; Sir Robin McAlpine, former chairman, Sir Robert McAlpine and Sons, 85; Professor Sir Gordon Robson, anaesthetist, 70; Mr Alan Sapper, trades unionist, 60; Mr Ingegnor Stenmark, skier, 35; Lord Strauspey, 79; Professor Eric Sunderland, vice-chancellor, University of Wales, 61; Mr John Uppidge, writer, 59.

Service luncheon

Grapple resumes
Air Vice-Marshal R.H. Newton received the guests at the annual Christmas Island luncheon held on Saturday at the RAF Club for officers who served on Christmas Island with task force "Grapple".

Service dinners

The Queen's Lancashire Regiment (V)
The annual dinner of The Queen's Lancashire Regiment (Volunteer) Dinner Club was held on Saturday at Kimberley Barracks, Preston. Lieutenant-Colonel R.C. Aldis, Commanding Officer of the 4th Battalion, presided.

The Essex Regiment (TA)
Captain Robert Laurie, Vice-Lord Lieutenant of Essex, was the principal guest at the annual dinner of the 4th/5th Battalion The Essex Regiment (TA) Officers' Dinner Club held on Saturday at Roman Barracks, Colchester. Colonel Geoffrey Morgan, chairman, presided.

The Royal Welch Fusiliers (TA)
Colonel J.N. Egan presided at the annual dinner of the 6th/7th Battalion The Royal Welch Fusiliers Dining Club held on Saturday at the Gogarth Abbey Hotel, Llandudno.

University news

Oxford Elections
The QUEEN'S COLLEGE
To its 10th anniversary, The Rev Dr J. H. Jones, Vice-Chancellor, gave a message of welcome to the 100th anniversary of the college's foundation.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr M.E.F. Chance and Miss E.L. Webb-Baker
The engagement is announced between Michael, younger son of the late Mr and Mrs Jack Chance and stepson of the late Eric Chance, and Irene, only daughter of the late Francis and Mrs Noel-Baker, of Achmetia, Euboea, Greece.

Mr M.J. Davies and Miss T.O.M. Ryan
The engagement is announced between Marylyn Jason, son of Mr Alan Victor Davies, and the late Mrs Betty Davies, of Nuneaton, Warwickshire, and Trudi Ometta Martin, daughter of Mr Martin Noel Ryan and Mrs Betty Cavella Ryan, of South London.

Mr N.B.R. Emley and Miss E.N. Beasley
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, younger son of Colonel and Mrs Derek Emley, of Tenby Court, Marshfield, Dorset, and Eva, eldest daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs Simon Beasley, of St Catherine, Bath.

Dr F. Foot and Miss K.M. Cooper
The engagement is announced between Peter Foot, of Greenwich, London, eldest son of Mr and Mrs David Foot, of Exeter, and Katherine Mary, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs James Ashby Cooper, of Hexton, Hertfordshire.

Mr C.P. Boyle and Miss G. Nesbitt
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My devoted servant, with whom I am pleased, will be the presentation of money and his place in the world.

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CLASSICAL MUSIC

By no means a humdrum genius

Clive Davis on the pianist Glenn Gould, currently the subject of a Radio 3 series

Thirteen years ago, when the United States launched its two Voyager space probes on a mission to explore the solar system and beyond, scientists added a souvenir of planet Earth: a 12-inch copper recording. The disc contained messages and items of music, among them Glenn Gould's version of the first prelude and fugue from Book One of the *Well-Tempered Clavier*.

The spacecraft are still on their journey. Gould is dead, but his music is already encrusted with myth. And his recordings are still in demand. His legacy is being explored in a nine-week series on Radio 3, which started yesterday. Apart from the two celebrated recordings of the Bach "Goldberg Variations", the programmes include Stravinsky's *Lieder* with Elisabeth Schwarzkopf and a performance with Yehudi Menuhin of Bach's C-minor sonata for violin and harpsichord. On Thursday Radio 3 will also broadcast Glenn Gould: *Concert Drop-out*, a documentary first aired in 1986.

Gould's was a short but spectacular life. Springing to prominence at the age of 23 with an impassioned account of the Variations in 1955, the Canadian pianist caused consternation when he abandoned the concert stage nine



Glenn Gould: impassioned

years later to devote himself to studio recordings. He was later to speak of giving up the piano after his fiftieth birthday. In September 1982, two days after reaching his half-century, he suffered a stroke and, lapsed into a coma. A week later, doctors turned off his life-support machine.

It was not just his approach to Bach that attracted comment. There was his unusually low posture at the piano, and his extravagant humming and swaying. A hypochondriac, he was known to arrive on stage wearing an overcoat to ward off colds. As Otto Friedrich explains in his recent biography, *Glenn Gould: A Life and Variations*, critics found the mannerisms distracting.

A senior writer on *Time* magazine, Friedrich was the first author to be given full access to the Gould archive at the National Library in Ottawa. He is now in a position

to throw light on the Gould legend – including the decision to renounce public performances.

"He didn't like the bull-dog atmosphere," says Friedrich, "this idea that the audience goes along waiting for – even hoping for – the performer to make a mistake. He called it 'the last blood sport'."

What of his talk of renouncing the piano at 50? Friedrich thinks Gould may well have been serious, partly because he was nearing the end of the repertoire that interested him. "He had recorded practically all of Bach, a lot of Beethoven, Brahms and Mozart, and very nearly all of Schubert. He didn't want to record Chopin, Schumann and the rest, so he was doing more and more minor stuff. Towards the end he wanted to be a conductor. He spent a lot of time preparing his ideal programme; he even hired an orchestra to rehearse with him."

A more dramatic explanation comes from Gould's former producer, Andrew Kazdin, who has written his own memoir of their 15-year association. Kazdin describes how the pianist divulged a secret plan: Gould would retire at 50, but continue to make clandestine recordings in his home city, Toronto. After a reasonable interval he would then begin to release the new material, taking advantage of the rise in its market value.

Kazdin has vivid memories of the hours in the studio with Gould. He recalls the efforts to minimise the effects of the vocalising. And he remembers Gould's notorious Mozart sonata recordings.

"If he had to play Bach, he knew exactly the way it would go. With Mozart, and occasionally Beethoven, he would play a movement over and over as if hoping to find inspiration on the spot. But even as an exercise in perversity, it deserves to be heard."

As both Friedrich and Kazdin make clear, Gould's single-mindedness extended to his private life. Friends had to accept that they would very rarely see him; instead they would have to engage in telephone conversations for hours on end in the middle of the night. Unusual behaviour certainly, but again, Friedrich thinks it had its own logic.

"Gould liked to stay up all night working. The criticism of his appearance at concerts comes from the notion that a musician is some kind of servant who has to be dressed in a dinner jacket. He was a man who wanted to control every aspect of his life."

● Glenn Gould: *Concert Drop-out* is broadcast on Radio 3 on Thursday at 2pm. There are eight more programmes in the Glenn Gould series on Radio 3 on Sundays at 9.15am.

CINEMA

Making up is hard to do

Mike Leigh's latest film, *Life is Sweet*, is released this week.

He talked to David Robinson about working without a script

Imagining Mike Leigh as a character in one of his own films is not difficult. He would probably play a well-meaning, inquisitive neighbour, innocently blundering in on one of the domestic bust-ups that proliferate in the world of his films, and making things worse. He is 48, sturdy but not tall, and retains a Salford accent. His wide-open eyes seem to express both concerned curiosity and acute anxiety.

Between films after finishing *Life is Sweet*, Leigh has just directed a commercial. He told the startled copywriter that this was the first time he had worked with a script since he directed Brecht's *Galileo* at the Bermuda Arts Festival in 1970. "Actually I was doing my sort of thing even before that, since 1965 in fact."

Mike Leigh's "thing" is the very personal working method which has so far produced 20 stage plays, 15 films (all but three for television), a mass of myth and misapprehension, and no disciples able to emulate the style. *Abigail's Party* is probably the best-known example of his work. To describe his method as evolving plays and films out of workshop improvisation would be to over-simplify the process underlying the credit title "devised by Mike Leigh".

"In some ways," Leigh says, "it gets more sophisticated – but then films are more sophisticated. But the basic way of working and creating the characters and their world and relationships does not change. What is different is the sense of the subject matter."

"With *Life is Sweet* I committed myself to making a comedy that would have a potentially larger audience appeal than *High Hopes* [his last cinema film, released in 1989]. But I never felt compromised by this consideration. I would like to think it can appeal to the audiences which used to go and see *Carry On*, and now watch *Bread and Alley*. In fact I hope they find they enjoy it more than *Carry On*, because it is about real people."

Life is Sweet recounts the

disastrous misadventures of an ordinary suburban family. Mum (Alison Steadman, in real life married to Leigh), indomitably chirpy, battles to hold things together. Dad (Jim Broadbent) works in a restaurant kitchen but dreams of running his own burger van. One of their twin daughters is a happily adjusted plumber, the other an anorexic feminist. In the way of most Leigh characters they are absurd, mad, deviously messy, and yet poignant and even heroic in their battle with life and emotions.

Life is Sweet followed the usual pattern of a Leigh production, with a three-month rehearsal period followed by an economical nine-week shoot. "One of the most basic misconceptions about the way I work – somebody even

I hope they find they enjoy it more than Carry On, because it is about real people

based an entire, destructive critique on the notion – is that I choose actors, develop characters in isolation, and then just throw them together to see what happens – like fighting cocks in a ring."

"It's true that I begin work with the actors individually, because it is all about the separateness and singularity of each person. We will start just talking, about people they know and so on. But then we start to work out the scenes with the actors together. "This is the period of decisions and discoveries and throwing things out and assembling your ideas. By the end of the rehearsal period we have a rough armature of the whole thing. At this stage I will write down a one-line descrip-

tion of what happens in each scene. The whole thing will only be three or four pages.

"The three months' rehearsal period serves to make the acting solid; but the real rehearsal – planning who says what and who sits where – can only happen when we get on the actual locations, during the shoot. And since it is always a very tight shoot, every moment, day or night, when we're not actually filming is spent constructing the scenes and the way things happen. Nothing is improvised in front of the camera."

"It's hard work: people are knocked at the end of it. But in many ways we finish with something much more solid than we would with a written script. The rule is that the words have to work for the actor in character, and work from the point of view of motivation. It is rock solid."

Working without a conventional script can be a major disadvantage in the commercial world of the cinema, where finance is invariably raised on the strength of the script. "After *High Hopes* did well in the States, all the companies phoned us; but then vanished instantly when they found I wouldn't be able to give them a script."

"This is why for so long my work was done for television, though I always thought of them as films. It was the arrival of Channel 4 that finally made it possible for me to make films for the cinema in my own way."

Leigh's budgets are still restricted. *Life is Sweet* was originally budgeted at £2.5 million, but was eventually made for £1.4 million. "I still feel constrained by budgets. I would like for instance to do things like a reasonable sized family wedding or funeral; but to prepare a big group of actors in my way would take time and resources. In a way the world I depict is restricted by budgetary considerations."

"Again, for a very long time I've had a project for an Anglo-Australian co-production about people emigrating to Australia and having a bad time and coming back again. There is a lot of interest in it in principle, but we cannot budget it at less than £8 million."

"We could get funding by putting in major American stars, as we could have done with *Life is Sweet*. But we said, for us Jim Broadbent, Alison Steadman and Timothy Spall are megastars. The reply is of course that they don't have the constituency in the States."

"Nowadays the States is an all-pervading consideration in setting up a film, though the way I work I am free from



Mike Leigh: his film-making method "takes time and must be done meticulously"

having to worry about it too seriously. Of course they say, 'It would be very nice if it did well in the States' – and in fact *High Hopes* did, and it couldn't have been less concerned with pandering to that market."

"I was horrified when one distributor said encouragingly about *Life is Sweet*, 'Of course, anorexia is very big in the States.' I said 'it is, but I'm glad I hadn't thought of that.' 'Of course we could devise stratagems to get the bread, but I won't be uncomfortable if some outside force decrees that all I can ever do is to

make films about ordinary people's lives on the scale I always have: I would get on with it. The disappointment is that as a passionate movie-lover – theatre is always a secondary thing that you do because you can do it cheaply – I shall feel in a way short-changed if I don't get to paint the broader canvas which I want to do and know I could. But it takes time and must be done meticulously. You can't subject it to an industrial process."

● *Life is Sweet* will be reviewed on Thursday and opens in London on Friday

Open to all

THE Royal Ballet has announced a joint initiative with the Dance Theatre of Haden that will involve regular guest appearances by black dancers at Covent Garden. Principals from the New York-based company will perform with the Royal next season in Balanchine's *Agon* and Peter Wright's productions of *The Nutcracker* and *Giselle*, while further long-term visits by Haden dancers are planned. The first Harlem artists to perform with the Royal were Christina Johnson and Ronald Perry, in *The Nutcracker* in December. Meanwhile, in a bid to reflect the multi-racial nature of British society, the Royal, in collaboration with the Haden company, will launch a new education programme which will aim to identify talented children from all ethnic backgrounds and give them sufficient training to audition for ballet schools.

Euro-Dame

DAME Maggie Smith has won this year's Shakespeare Prize. Worth £15,000 (approximately £15,400), the award is made annually by the FVS Foundation of Hamburg to a British citizen who has made an outstanding contribution to Europe's cultural heritage. The conductor Sir Neville Marriner won last year; previous winners have included Peter Shaffer, David Hockney and Dame Iris Murdoch. This year's citation mentions Dame



Maggie Smith: prized

Maggie's "interpretations of modern comedies from *Stoppard* to *Shaffer*". She will be presented with the prize on May 22.

London to Naples return

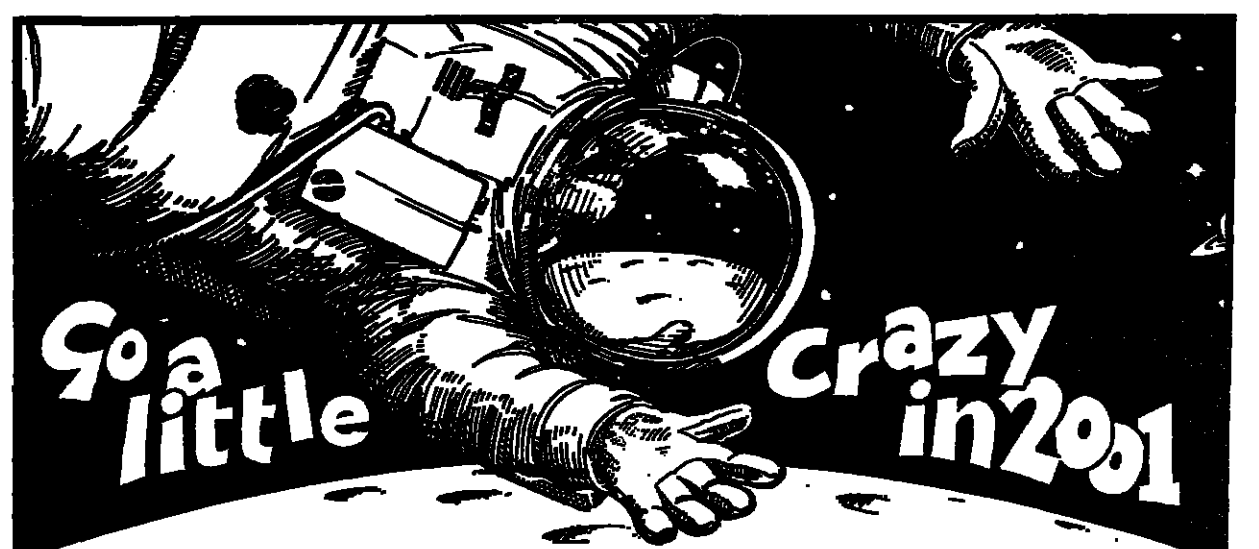
LAURENCE Olivier gave a famously funny performance in Zeffirelli's production of *Saturday, Sunday, Monday*. Ralph Richardson played the last of his many roles in *Inner Voices* in 1983. But since then little has been heard of the man who wrote both plays, the Neapolitan dramatist Eduardo de Filippo. However, that will be rectified at the National Theatre on June 27, when Richard Eyre stages his play about wartime Italy, *Napoli Millionaria*. This time, Ian McKellen stars.

For Easter?

CHANNEL 4's "Banned" season – 60 hours of programming next month that will comprise once-censored films, and documentaries about censorship – has pulled off at least one coup. The season will include Monty Python's *The Life of Brian*, previously banned from British terrestrial television (though it has been programmed on Sky Movies).

Last chance...

AGNEW's annual watercolour exhibition is now in its 118th edition, which means that it has been going since Gladstone was last in power. The quality is remarkably sustained, though the show is smaller than usual. Still, it is stuffed with treasures, notably a fine Turner of deer at Petworth and an oriental fantasy from Richard Dadd's madness. Agnew's (071-629 6176) until Friday.



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SUN ALLIANCE

LIFE & PENSIONS

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"It was said that contraceptives were handed out with the bed linen"



Kilquhanity House, Scotland's pioneering answer to Summerhill school, has just celebrated its jubilee. The TES reports.

TES

THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

Friday

Agony uncle reassures actors

THEATRE

The Closing Number Hampstead

DEAR Uncle Benedict: What should I do? I am a snake-charmer and I live on a very nice houseboat with a knife-thrower. Recently, he cut my best cobra into pieces, and now he seems to expect me to spend half the day standing against a board while he hurls cleavers all round my body. At first this turned me on, but the other day he tried to do it blindfolded, and when I said no, he got quite upset. In fact, he took out an electric guitar and started playing duets with the girl accordionist who lives in the hold of our boat. I have recently met a very nice juggler, who does tricks for me with apples, but it isn't the same thing. Can you help? Denise Wong.

DEAR Uncle Benedict: I am a knife-thrower, and I live with a snake-charmer (well, er, snake-charmer, actually), who doesn't seem to understand that I have to throw whatever I like in whatever way I like whenever I feel like it. She just sits around making jellies, decorating Christmas trees and darning tinsel over the garden gnome we keep outside our houseboat. Then she is surprised when I take an interest in a girl who not

only likes having knives thrown at her but plays some very nice Spanish music on the accordion. Can you believe it? Phil Daniels.

DEAR Uncle Benedict: I am a very puzzled girl who wishes she knew why she lived in the hold of a houseboat. The owner is a very interesting person who plays the electric guitar (I am an ace accordionist, so we have plenty in common) and throws knives. Unluckily, he really loves another woman, even though she seems to do nothing except make jelly, decorate Christmas trees, and look upset. No sooner had I let him throw a lot of knives at me than he left me I peeled an orange and squashed it all over my face, but it didn't make me feel any better. Should I maybe find another houseboat to live in? Kate France.

DEAR Uncle Benedict: I am a very worried juggler who spends most of his time wandering about near a houseboat. Recently, I met the woman who lives there. I did some clever things with apples and a wine bottle for her, and she let me balance her on the backs of some chairs, but I think she really loves a man with an electric guitar and a lot of knives. This is hard to understand, as he always looks miserable, and the last time I saw them together they were rubbing red jelly all over each other's faces. Should I find someone more normal? Tony Anthony.

DEAR Denise, Phil, Kate and



Symbolism in the air: Phil Daniels as the knife-thrower

Tony: Try to be patient. You are members of a theatre company called Shared Experience who have wandered into a play without words that has been devised and directed by a Yugoslav called Mladen Matic. If you feel uneasy, it is probably because you are being symbolic. That is something foreign gentlemen often ask actors to be. It may not make you feel

better to know that you are symbolising the ups and downs of love, but I can assure you that it will not do you any lasting damage. My advice is next time to look for a play with more words and less jelly. Above all, make sure that there is no garden gnome in the cast!

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

THEATRE

The False Count Man in the Moon, Chelsea

THE pub theatre at World's End has launched a two-month repertory season of plays by women. The initiative gets off to a rattling good start with a pacy and enjoyable Restoration comedy by Aphra Behn.

Look in vain for those virtues traditionally associated with women's writing, in novels at least: subtlety, delicate analysis of motives, intuitive perfection. Behn, probably engaged in espionage as well as letters, is as savage in her punishment of the unlovable and as amoral in her approval of self-gratification as her male colleagues. Her women characters certainly plot, love and lust with more robustness than one finds elsewhere; and there are

fleeting reminders that women are mere chattels to be disposed of by their menfolk; but the morality that emerges simply favours the young and beautiful over the old and stinky. A sub-plot in which a merchant's foolish daughter passionately pursues a titled marriage ends with an enormous solid middle-class virtue - rather oddly, given the preceding cavalier (in all senses) carry-on - and the cynical thesis that clothes and accent can transform a sweep into a count, 200 years before *Pygmalion* occurred to Shaw.

The ten-strong cast must be the largest ever manipulated in the tiny acting space. Vivienne Cottrill's direction even runs to a shipboard battle, sword play with invisible blades conveyed by metallic sound-effects. The bare brick walls and three painted crates which do duty as furniture, pedestal, or boat eventually give way to curtains and cushions for the mock-oriental pavilion where the boat party are carried by their

captors, young bloods disguised as Turks. Only occasionally does the production feel cluttered, notably in the crucial scene when the frightened old husband begs his all-too-complaisant daughter to marry the Grand Turk, a silent minor character dominates and upstages the proceedings.

Otherwise Behn's vigorous dialogue and exuberant plotting make a splendidly rewarding rediscovery. Some of the nuances go unheeded, especially in the chief comic role. Old Francisco, pathologically suspicious and jealous of his young wife, initially cuts a wonderful figure, sheltering his womanfolk behind his cloak from passing men, like a be-draggled eagle stretching its wings over its eggs. But Michael McGrath, both director and actor, gives him a note of snarling or gringing nastiness that grows monotonous. Like Pinchwife in *The Country Wife* the man is both bully and buffoon (not to mention his touches of Molière's miser,

bourgeois gentleman and possessive fiancé in *School for Wives*). Without a touch of complacency, Tony Hancock-like self-esteem, the humour misfires. Thus the scenes of terror in the hope Turkish captivity take on an uncomfortable edge.

The same goes for Steve Knowles's swashbuckling swop-tongued, despite a flamboyant disguise that facially at least startlingly recalls Olivier's Brzen in *The Recruiting Officer*. In time this may mellow into subtle comedy. For this we look to two supporting roles. As the mobbish daughter Lisa Stubbs has the pert, fleshy ripeness of a Lely portrait, and a resigned way of sighing "You must have patience and be ravished" that just steers clear of pleasurable anticipation. And Matthew Thomas, as the hero's friend, has a perfectly judged and hilarious line in fatuously quivering intensity.

MARTIN HOYLE

Jane's Addiction Brixton Academy

HAVING called their debut album *Nothing's Shocking*, Jane's Addiction have worked hard in the three years since its release trying to prove the opposite.

Adopting every rebel rock pose in the book these desperados from the American West Coast have embraced their products with provocative artwork, made a video showing a naked woman, sung about the joys of stealing and generally gone looking for a bad time whenever possible. Of course, this has all been done for purely creative reasons, giving the rock envelope a good stretch and all that, but the publicity generated by such antics has not exactly hurt the group's prospects. Shock or sham? The records are dreadful, but there is something different about them in concert. Their back line equipment was buried among an escarpment of iconographic clutter - statuettes, flowers, candles, photographs - representing an extension of the "Santaria religion-borrowed folk-art fetish" which decorates the cover of the band's second album, *Ritual de lo Habitual*. Fairy lights

cascading down from a back corner of the stage, and an oddly canting lighting truss further contributed to the unsettling visual aspect.

Their musical foundations were located in modern heavy metal - a dense, churning guitar sound and thunderous tom-tom tattoo - but with a twist in the shape of Perry Farrell's confrontational lyrics and abrasive vocal style. A beaky-looking character with a short beard, Farrell is the brains behind Jane's Addiction. His stage manner was singularly unprepossessing, especially during the in-between-numbers monologues, designed to advertise his contempt for the audience. His singing, which incorporated elements of the techniques of Robert Plant and John Lydon, had a shrill, delinquent quality that took some getting used to.

Yet try as one might to dislike Farrell's vocal tantrums and his cacophonous noise, there was a fiendish satisfaction to be derived from the way that the songs unfurled. "Standing in the Shower... Thinking", "Ain't No Right" and "Mountain Song" were dispatched with such howling, irrelevant glee that it was hard not to get swept along by the sheer anarchic rush of it all.

DAVID SINCLAIR

NEW RELEASES

AWAKENINGS (12): Tender, heart-warming of an upper-middle-class American striding the life force in Robert De Niro and other patients stricken with paralysis. Directed by Oliver Stone. (12) 1200 0111.

BLOOD OATH (12): Large, monotonous, studied story of a Japanese war crime trial in Indonesia. With Bryan Brown, director, Stephen Wootton. (12) 1200 0111.

COMING OUT (12): Tribulations of a gay teacher in East Berlin; sincere, authentic, though the quiet pace limits the film's effect. Directed by Helmut Dietrich. (12) 1200 0111.

THE ROAD HOME (12): High Hudson's fondly, unapologetic problem movie about middle-class townsmen in southern California. With Beanie Boys singer Adam Horovitz. (12) 1200 0111.

AVALLON (12): Engaging personal saga about immigrant experience and post-war Jewish life in London. Directed by Barry Levinson. (12) 1200 0111.

BERLIN JERUSALEM (12): Ancestral's stylized exploration of the Zionist dream; clever on paper, less rewarding on the screen. (12) 1200 0111.

CHEST LA VIE (12): Excellent autobiographical sketch by French director Claude Lelouch. (12) 1200 0111.

CYRANO DE BERGERAC (12): Oscar-nominated French director Jean-Paul Rappoer's beautiful production of the 17th-century play. (12) 1200 0111.

DANCES WITH WOLVES (12): Kevin Costner as the Civil War lieutenant used into the Sioux way of life. (12) 1200 0111.

THE BATTLE OF ALGERIA (12): Indisputable 19th-century battle tragedy as produced by 19th-century French director. (12) 1200 0111.

CHILDREN OF EDEN (12): British film about the Jewish immigrant experience in London. (12) 1200 0111.

FIVE GUYS NAMED MACE (12): Mace's journey from a small town in Iowa to New York City. (12) 1200 0111.

THE 400 BLOWS (12): Irresistible tale of a young boy's life in a Catholic school. (12) 1200 0111.

HIDDEN LAUGHTERS (12): Emotional journey, martial beauty and Peter Berthel's film about the Jewish immigrant experience in London. (12) 1200 0111.

THE HOMEcoming (12): Warren Mitchell and others singing and dancing in a film about the Jewish immigrant experience in London. (12) 1200 0111.

THE KING AND I (12): A musical about the life of Anna and King George VI. (12) 1200 0111.

THE LULLABY (12): A musical about the life of Anna and King George VI. (12) 1200 0111.

THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW (12): A musical about the life of Anna and King George VI. (12) 1200 0111.

THE SEAGULL (12): A musical about the life of Anna and King George VI. (12) 1200 0111.

THE SHOGUN (12): A musical about the life of Anna and King George VI. (12) 1200 0111.

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THEATRE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and elsewhere indicated with the symbol (\$) on release across the country.

FEAR (12): Dennis Quaid as the last man to be put to death in the electric chair. (12) 1200 0111.

GHOST (12): Jack Nicholson as the ghost of a murdered man who helps a woman solve a murder. (12) 1200 0111.

THE GODFATHER PART II (12): Al Pacino as the son of the Godfather. (12) 1200 0111.

GOODFELLAS (12): Robert Di Niro as a New York hoodlum. (12) 1200 0111.

THE RUSSIA HOUSE (12): A political thriller about the fall of the Soviet Union. (12) 1200 0111.

GREEN CARD (12): A comedy about a man who becomes an American citizen. (12) 1200 0111.

THE LAST OF THE MOHICANS (12): A historical epic about a man who saves a tribe of Indians. (12) 1200 0111.

THE LUTHERAL HOUSE (12): A comedy about a man who becomes an American citizen. (12) 1200 0111.

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THE NASTY GIRL (12): A comedy about a man who becomes an American citizen. (12) 1200 0111.

THE PACIFIC HEIGHTS (12): A historical epic about a man who saves a tribe of Indians. (12) 1200 0111.

THE POSTCARD FROM THE EDGE (12): A historical epic about a man who saves a tribe of Indians. (12) 1200 0111.

THE RUSSELL HOUSE (12): A historical epic about a man who saves a tribe of Indians. (12) 1200 0111.

THE SEVENTH SKY (12): A historical epic about a man who saves a tribe of Indians. (12) 1200 0111.

THE THREE MEN AND A LITTLE LADY (12): A historical epic about a man who saves a tribe of Indians. (12) 1200 0111.

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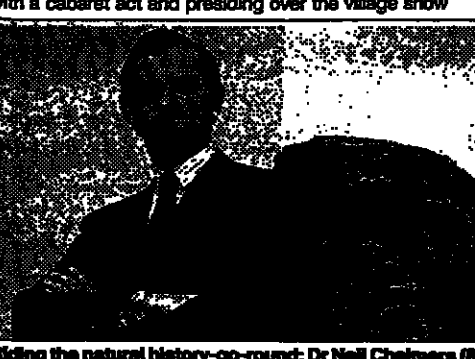
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BBC 1

- 6.00 Coast 6.30 Breakfast News
9.15 Kilroy, Peter Kilroy-Silk chairs a topical discussion 9.55 Regional News and weather
10.00 News and weather 10.05 Playdays (t) 10.25 The Family Nees (t) 10.35 She's the Sheriff. Comedy series about a woman sheriff (t)
11.00 News and weather 11.05 People Today. Adrian Mills and David Jones present the magazine programme that takes a look at the lives of people across Britain today. Jeffrey Archer is the guest in the last edition of *Mother of Mine*, in which celebrities recall their formative years, and there is the phone-in celebrity slot, *Kitchen Chat*.
12.00 News and weather 12.05 Antiques Roadshow Gams. Hugh Scully presents a new weekly foray into the *Antiques Roadshow* archives beginning with a selection of dolls and teddy bears 12.20 Soave Today. Judi Spiers and Tim Grundy present live entertainment and chat from Pebble Mill 12.55 Regional News and weather
1.00 One O'Clock News and weather
2.15 Stanley and Hudson. (Ceefax) 1.50 Going for Gold with Henry Kelly
2.15 Stanley and Hudson. The Psychiatrist. Paul Michael Gleeson and David Soul as the unorthodox cops. A girl has been kidnapped and a tip from Huggy puts the crime-busters on the trail of a seedy cafe proprietor who claims to have psychic powers (t) 3.00 Head of the Class. American comedy about an unconventional teacher (Howard Hesseman) and his class of genius students
3.25 Bazaar. Steve Hughes presents more money-saving ideas
3.50 Radio Roo. Children's comedy series 4.05 Jimbo and the Jet Set (t) 4.10 Jeopardy. Jean Boht from Broad reads part one of Roald Dahl's *Esio Trot* 4.25 The New Adventures of Mighty Mouse (t) 4.35 Thundercats
4.55 Newsworld 5.05 Blue Peter with the story of architect and designer Sir Christopher Wren. (Ceefax)
5.35 Neighbours (t). (Ceefax) Northern Ireland: Sportswide 5.40 Inside Usher
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Peter Sissons and Morna Stuart. Weather
6.30 Regional News Magazines. Northern Ireland: Neighbours
7.00 Wogan. The guests are Sandy Gall and Felicity Kendal. Plus a song from Celine Dion
7.30 Family Matters. John Humphrys chairs a discussion on the impact of television on family life
8.00 Wildlife on One: Birds of the Sun God. Humming birds are among the most remarkable of species in the bird world. They possess dazzling plumage, lay the smallest eggs and their incredibly fast wingbeats enable them to out-perform a helicopter. Sir David Attenborough provides a profile of these amazing creatures, with the help of stunning photography by cameraman Mike Potts (t). (Teletext)

Slow dances: Matthew Cottle and Barbara Durkin (8.30pm)
8.30 Taking the Floor. Ballroom dancing comedy starring Matthew Cottle and Barbara Durkin which has yet to set the feet tapping (Ceefax)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Martyn Lewis. (Ceefax) Regional News and weather
9.30 Panorama. On the eve of the Budget, *Panorama* examines whether the recession is doing lasting damage to Britain's economy. Nisha Pillai reports from Bournemouth and Coventry on the growing demands for swift action to prevent a total undermining of British industry
10.10 Mancuso FBI. American drama series starring Robert Loggia as the federal agent. Dark threats and labour unrest lead Mancuso into the world of a high-powered industrialist who is trying to sell off his airline while dealing with a messy divorce. Northern Ireland: Schools Sport Special
11.00 When I Get to Heaven. The acclaimed actor Nabil Shaban, who has been confined to a wheelchair since childhood by a brittle bone marrow, takes to the stage in *Richard III* about when he became aware of an audience beyond his life. Northern Ireland: When the Lines are Wavering
11.30 Advice Shop. Campaigning requires a lot of dedication and hard work to be successful. Groups from South Wales and Belfast give an insight into the secrets of their success (t). Northern Ireland: When I Get to Heaven
12.00 Weather. Northern Ireland: Advice Shop. Ends 12.30am


BBC 2

- 6.45 Open University: Education - A Place for Play 7.10 Hogarth's Paintings. Ends at 7.35
8.00 News 8.15 Westminster
8.30 Daytime on Two. Educational programmes
9.00 News and weather followed by *Storytime* (t) 2.15 Regional Westminster Programme (t) Northern Ireland: Growing Freedom 2.45 Behind the Screen. David Vickery goes to Albert Square to meet the cast of *EastEnders*
3.00 News and weather followed by Songs of Praise from St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin (t) (Ceefax) 3.35 Canvas. Paul Harris admires Van Gogh's *Sunflowers* (t) 3.50 News, regional news and weather
4.00 Catchword. Scrabble word game hosted by Paul Cola
4.30 Phinder. Emma Freud offers celebrities the chance to rifle the BBC archives for their favourite clips. Today's guest is Andrew Lloyd Webber
5.00 News headlines followed by *Female on the Beach* (1955, b/w). Joan Crawford stars as a wealthy widow who takes possession of a California beach house and unaccountably falls in love with the gigolo con-artist next door (Jeff Chandler), despite being afraid that he may be intent on murdering her. The premise of the film is absurd, but gives Crawford an excuse to ham gloriously. Directed by Albert Zugmeyer
6.35 *Disc 2* begins with *The Fresh Prince of Bel Air*. American comedy about a streetwise Philadelphia boy making out in Beverly Hills 7.00 Snub. The latest music from independent labels 7.30 Job Bank. Graphic design and printing
7.40 Countryman: Doctor Jim.
● CHOICE: The latest subject in the enjoyable series of Lakeland parables is a Cornish doctor, Dr Cox, whose rural practice comes to a 20-mile radius from the village of Calstock. As usual the story is told in the subject's own words, delivered in voice-over. As usual, too, the landscape provides a gloriously scenic backdrop. Cox reckons that country people are more independent than town dwellers, as well as being less isolated and deprived. Calstock, born and bred, Cox works in the practice where his father had been a doctor before him. The film captures the solidity and steady pace of country life and the shrewd common sense of country people. Dr Jim, as his patients call him, is a linchpin of the community, seeing himself as a social worker as well as dispenser of medicine. When he is being neither he is entertaining the locals with a cabaret act and presiding over the village show

Riding the natural history go-round: Dr Neil Chalmers (8.10pm)
8.10 Horizon: The Terra-cotta Time Machine.
● CHOICE: An unusually punchy edition of *Horizon* examines the charge that the Natural History Museum, Alfred Waterhouse's cathedral-like Victorian edifice in south Kensington, is sacrificing science to showbusiness. The question is prompted by the recent policy of cutting back on research and promoting such audience-grabbing ventures as the creepy crawlies show. Not for nothing, says the critics, did the museum's director, Dr Neil Chalmers, tell his staff to Disney World to pick up tips on promoting customer appeal. Dr Chalmers, whose radical new plans led to the museum's first official strike, says it is all about money. With the government grant declining in real terms, the museum has to find up to £1 million extra per year. Traditionalists Dr Jonathan Miller and Sir David Attenborough recall the museum when it could concentrate on study and research and did not have to worry about selling itself. (Ceefax)
9.00 Film: Love Is Never Silent (1985). Emmy award-winning made-for-television movie based on Joanne Greenberg's novel *In This Sign*. Mere Winifred stars as a young woman who is the only link her deaf parents have with the hearing world. Tom between her devotion to them and her own needs, she eventually falls in love and marries, only to suffer her parents' bitterness and her own grief at having left them. Winifred is excellent as Margaret and ably supported by Ed Waterstreet and Phyllis French, veterans of the National Theatre of the Deaf, as her parents. Directed by Joseph Sargent
10.30 Newsworld with Jeremy Paxman
11.15 The Late Show. Arts and media magazine 11.55 Weather
12.00 Open University: Arts - Narrative. Ends at 12.30am

ITV

- 5.00 TV-am
9.25 Lucky Ladders. Word association game with comedian Lenne Bennett 9.55 Thames News and weather
10.00 The Time... The Place... John Stapleton chairs a discussion on the high cost of weddings
10.40 This Morning. Family magazine hosted by Richard Madeley and Judy Finnigan. They are joined by Susan Brookes with cooking tips and Charles Melville talking about wine. Mervyn Don helps with gardening problems
12.10 Rosie and Jim. For the young (t)
12.30 News and weather 1.10 Thames News and weather
1.20 Home and Away. Drama serial about an Australian couple and their foster children 1.50 A Country Practice. Australian soap set in a rural community health centre
2.20 Thames Help. Jackie Sprackley previews the week's series of programmes on advice agencies 2.50 Graham Kerr. More gourmet cooking including a vegetarian summer dish from *Formosa*
3.15 ITN News headlines 3.20 Thames News headlines 3.25 Families. Soap set in the north of England and Australia
3.55 Nellie the Elephant (t) 4.05 Krandale Television. The madcap Scottish duo sign up Ian St John and Nick Owen as the latest stars of their TV station 4.30 Count Duckula (t) 5.00 Warner Brothers Cartoon
5.10 Blockbusters. Bob Holmes hosts the quiz show for teenagers
5.40 News. (Ceefax) Weather
5.55 Thames Help. Jackie Sprackley on the work of the Watworth Advice Centre
6.00 Home and Away (t)
7.00 Wish You Were Here...? Judy Chalmers tops up her tan on a beach and safari holiday in Kenya, and samples the delights of Plymouth as a base for holidaymakers. John Carter is in the Costa del Sol to report on changes in the traditionally down-market Spanish holiday region (Ceefax)
7.30 Coronation Street. (Ceefax)

The Birmingham Six, with Chris Mullin, MP, centre (8.00pm)
8.00 World in Action: The Birmingham Six - Their Own Story. A documentary account of the 16 year struggle by the six Irishmen jailed for life for the Birmingham pub bombings of November 1974 to prove their innocence
9.00 Shrinkin'. Soap opera antics of the six psychiatrists at the Maximilian Institute. It is a tussle-up whether the patients or the shrinkers are more in need of help. The cast includes a number of the episode includes an Oedipus complex and a compulsive cleaning disorder. There is also financial and professional intrigue as the Institute hurls towards poverty and matters fiscal are complicated by affairs of the heart. Starring Bill Paterson, Brian Protheroe and Yvonne Bryceland. (Ceefax)
10.00 News at Ten. (Ceefax) Weather 10.30 Thames News and weather
10.40 Film: Children of the Corn (1984). Based on the short story by horror specialist Stephen King, this is a nasty tale of psychotic children who butcher all the adults in a small town in Nebraska in order to nourish the dying corn fields with human blood. Since the carnage takes place in the opening minutes of the film, suspense is effectively ruled out and the remainder is devoted to a post-teen couple's attempts to evade the scythe-wielding brats. The plot is a fairly predictable horror, but delivers some bleakly beautiful film. With Gregory Harrison, Adrienne Barbeau and Mel and José Ferrer. Directed by Jerrold Freeman
3.30 Cover Story. A profile of singer Roberta Flack
4.00 Mystery Theatre: Short Night. Michael's wife is convinced she is being followed, but he doubts it (t)
4.30 Bedrock. Rick Wakeman in concert
5.30 ITN Morning News. Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 The Channel Four Daily. Including regular news headlines and world news, and *The Art of Landscape*
9.25 Schools
12.00 Garden Club (t)
12.30 Business Daily. Financial and business news service
1.00 Sesame Street. Educational fun for pre-school children
2.00 Film: Nice Girl? (1941, b/w). The Deanna Durbin season continues with an amusing comedy that was supposed to mark the growing up of 'Unholy' Durbin's teenage sister. Durbin plays a small-town girl trying to shake off her 'nice girl' image as she finds herself in demand by two older men, played by Robert Stack and Franchot Tone. Directed by William A. Seiter
3.45 La Femme de Papier. Short Belgian film (t)
4.00 Travelog. Pete McCarthy's holiday in Alice Springs coincides with the region's entire annual rainfall (t)
4.30 Countdown Words and numbers game
5.00 The Late Late Show. Lively chat show from Dublin
5.30 The Cosby Show. The Huxtable household help Denise get ready for college, while Clair decides it's time for Cliff to go on a diet (t)
6.30 Tonight With Jonathan Ross. The guests are the impressionist and comedian Rory Bremner and Justin Quinell, described as a collector of airline sackbags. Plus music from Dina Brown and Barrie K. Sharpe
7.00 Channel 4 News. (Teletext)
7.50 Comment followed by weather
8.00 Brookside. Soap set in a Merseyside close. (Teletext)
8.30 My Two Dads. The hollow American sitcom continues with Nicole, Joey and Michael trying their hand at catching an arsonist

Infesting London's tower blocks: the cockroach (8.00pm)
9.00 Cutting Edge: A Plague on Your Home.
● CHOICE: Having highlighted one pest in the BBC film *Retarders*, the documentary film-makers Charles Stewart and Malcolm Hirst now turn to another. Their new film focuses on the cockroaches which are making life a routine misery for the residents of council-owned tower blocks in east London. Breeding in the channels which run between the floors, the cockroaches get everywhere. They crawl into food, beds and cupboards. They wake sleeping children. They spread diseases, such as salmonella and hepatitis. A pregnant woman threatens to have an abortion unless she is rehoused. Short of money, councils do their best to deal with the epidemic by sending in spray teams. Pest control costs the London borough of Hackney £1 million a year. But as soon as one flat is treated the cockroaches turn up somewhere else. Increasingly desperate, tenants are being forced to go to low to secure effective remedies
10.00 The Menage. Charlie Lough packs the punches for the second division club. Just as the line is beginning to recover from its all-time low, Gabriella makes a costly error of judgment (t)
11.00 Under Suspicion.
● CHOICE: Abbas Shiblak, a Palestinian author and journalist, was one of 89 people who faced deportation from Britain at the start of the Gulf war because they were seen as a threat to national security. He was taken from his house one evening by police and immigration officers. No charges were specified. He had to defend himself before a panel of three lawyers without being allowed a lawyer to represent him. With well-placed supporters to take up his case, he was able to gain his freedom. But he faces a legal bill for £11,500 for having challenged the lack of due process of law in the courts. In considering the humanitarian issues raised by the case, the programme brings out the resemblance between Shiblak's ordeal and the arrest of Kafka's Joseph K in *The Trial* and traces the historical roots of detention without trial, with special emphasis on the internment of German Jews during the second world war
11.30 Film: The Gold Diggers (1933, b/w). Prospector Julie Christie and Collette Lafont go in search of gold, identity and the equation between money and power in a small-budget experimental film made by director Sally Potter with an all-woman crew. With a surreal, stylised treatment, and virtually no plot, the film attempts a feminist examination of the history of screen heroines. Strictly for buffs.
11.00am Public Face: Private Eye. The first of a new series in which the British painter and writer Ian Breakwell narrates five short acts, portraying formative events in his life and providing an insight into his concerns as an artist. Ends at 1.25

ANGLO

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BUSINESS

Business Editor
John Bell

MONDAY MARCH 18 1991

Dismissal for 1,970 Air Europe employees

By OUR CITY STAFF

THE administrators appointed to International Leisure Group have dismissed almost 2,000 employees of Air Europe, the group's collapsed airline, after deciding that prospects of selling the airline within the next few days are remote.

One of the administrators, Phil Wallace, of KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock, said yesterday that there were only "two or three" prospective buyers for Air Europe and hope was fading for a sale before a meeting with the Civil Aviation Authority tomorrow afternoon. The meeting is to discuss Air Europe's air operating certificate.

In a statement, Mr Wallace and Tim Hayward, his colleague, said: "We think it is unlikely that we will have concluded a sale before the CAA deadline, although we may be able to take some proposals to our meeting which may persuade them to extend the deadline."

In making a decision to dismiss the staff, the administrators said they had to consider that "at least another seven days of talks" were needed before any sale could be affected.

Airlines thought to be interested in buying all, or part, of Air Europe include Dan-Air, Lufthansa and British Midland.

Last week the administrators dismissed 1,550 staff from ILG's tour operating division after failing to find a buyer before the CAA withdrew the licences for subsidiaries such as Intasun and Club 18-30.

The 1,970 Air Europe employees, administrators as well as air and ground staff, had been on unpaid suspension. About 180 staff have been retained to help the administrators and to meet CAA requirements.

ILG, chaired by Harry Goodman, passed into the hands of administrators ten days ago after failing to service debts in excess of £400 million.

The administrators have been striving to find buyers for parts of the business before various deadlines expire.

In the tours division, there is little to sell except the brand names, now that the licence has lapsed and customers have been rebuffed with rival tour operators.

The administrators have, however, made some disposals. Air Europe's 33 per cent stake in its Italian partner has been sold to management. NFD, the German affiliate, has also been sold, while Air Europa in Spain is also under offer. European affiliates operated 11 of Air Europe's 37 aircraft.

Another six aircraft are operated by Air Europe Express, the short-haul and night-time freight subsidiary. Mr Wallace said management was trying to put together a consortium buyout.

Negotiations are also in progress for the sale of the aircraft spares business, which has a book value of just over £40 million, while the assets of Quest Leisure Group, the schools tour operator, have been sold for an undisclosed sum to Skibound, the Brighton company.

Administrators said that they still had not been in touch with Omni Holdings, ILG's biggest shareholder and the master company of Werner Rey, the Swiss financier.

Omni, which is also facing receivership, is now believed to hold a 57 per cent stake in the group and injected £40 million in cash just before both companies failed.

CHANGE ON WEEK

US dollar 1.8310 (-0.0425)
W German mark 2.9278 (+0.0068)
Exchange index 93.0 (-0.6)

FT 30 Share 1983.5 (+24.8)
FT-SE 100 2494.2 (+39.2)

New York Dow Jones 2948.27 (-6.93)

Tokyo Nikkei Ave 26843.10 (+235.58)

Sears raises Grattan bid to £165m

By ANGELA MACKAY

SEARS has raised its offer for Grattan, the mail order subsidiary of Next, from £155 million to £165 million in an attempt to woo shareholders away from Otto Versand, the rival German bidder, before Friday's extraordinary general meeting of Next investors.

Next's board, led by Sir David Wolfson, the chairman, and David Jones, the chief executive, were last night in a board meeting at the offices of Lazard Brothers, the company's merchant bank, to decide whether they should back Sears rather than Otto.

Next has, so far, continued

to support Otto's bid, even after Sears increased its offer to £155 million, compared with the £151 million from the German mail order group. Next is also legally tied to Otto by an exclusivity agreement that can only be unlocked by shareholders' votes.

Geoffrey Maitland-Smith, Sears' chairman, said Sir David had been "extremely considerate and receptive" when he telephoned to inform him of the revised offer.

Mr Maitland-Smith refused to say that this might be Sears' final offer: "I couldn't say it was final, but it certainly should be enough."

Next's board will be hard-pressed to justify continued support for Otto because of its

duty to try to strike the best possible deal for shareholders.

In a circular to Next shareholders, Sears has tried to rebut many of Sir David's misgivings about the sale to a British group that boasts a subsidiary, Freemans, which is also one of Grattan's competitors.

Mr Maitland-Smith said Next's fear that Sears might develop a catalogue to rival Next Directory, which is not one of the assets of the offer, was unfair because it would not affect the service to be given to Next Directory by Grattan. Otto, moreover, had already said it intended to set up an up-market catalogue in Spring.

In its defence against Sears, Next's board said it was concerned about the quality and security of the services that Grattan, under Sears' control, would provide for Next and Next Directory.

Mr Maitland-Smith said: "We have offered them the opportunity to tie up that cooperation in a four-year contract, or even longer, but they refused."

Sears also pointed out that Next is not in such a secure financial position that it can afford the luxury of passing up another £14 million in favour of "alleged future benefits from a relationship with Otto, which are both intangible and unquantified."

Mr Maitland-Smith said its was naive of Next's board to think that Otto would not "exercise its considerable bargaining power" once it owned Grattan. He pointed out that, at one stage, Otto had threatened to sue Next if it co-operated with Sears.

Shareholders meet on Friday to vote on the Otto resolution. If the offer is not approved, then another meeting will be held on March 26 to vote on the Sears proposal.

British Shoe faces criticism on policy

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

SEARS, which owns British Shoe Corporation, the biggest shoe seller in Britain, comes under criticism in a report into footwear retailing by Verdict, the market research group.

Verdict says British Shoe Corporation's share of the £3.48 billion shoe market has fallen from a peak of 24.4 per cent in 1984 to 19.4 per cent today. The report says: "The company's policy of sacrificing market share to strengthen margins has not worked."

The corporation runs nearly one in five of all shoe shops in Britain. Verdict reports, but it did not initiate a market segmentation programme until 1987 to distinguish between its different trading names, which include Saxe, Dolcis and Lilley & Skinner.

The report is critical of the delay and says that slow

implementation has allowed a heavier impact from the recession.

Clark's, a private company that owns Ravel and K Shoes, is second largest in Britain, with 8.3 per cent of the market. The main Clark's chain had a comparatively good year in 1990 although Ravel did not perform well. Marks and Spencer is number three with 5.9 per cent of the market.

Verdict concludes that the outlook for footwear will remain difficult this year. It is an intrinsically difficult market in which to operate because of the high levels of stock needed and because footwear has accounted for a diminishing proportion of consumer spending over the years. This trend is continuing despite the boom in sports footwear.

Ministers to debate role of proposed EC central bank

From PETER GUILFORD IN BRUSSELS

EUROPEAN Community finance ministers will begin shaping the role and structure of a future European central bank today, despite Britain's continued opposition to the plan.

British officials admit the government will be taking a back seat in the talks, which will be dominated by Germany and France fighting over how far a central bank should be allowed to manage the EC's exchange rates free of political interference.

John Major, the prime minister, has promised that the government will play a central negotiating role as Britain and its EC partners forge an economic and monetary union (EMU). He underlined Britain's determination to influence Europe from within rather than criticising it from outside.

But today's meeting, part of the intergovernmental conference on EMU, could reflect how hard Britain will have to work to swing the debate in its favour. Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, still formally opposes the creation of a central bank, known as the Eurofed, which Britain's EC partners believe should eventually issue a single European currency. But Mr Lamont has

tempered his opposition by suggesting that Britain's alternative plan for a European Monetary Fund, designed to manage a thirteenth currency, a hard ecu, could be similar in structure to the Eurofed.

The talks will focus on a future EC bank's exchange rate policy. Diplomats maintain all 12 governments agree that finance ministers should set regular guidelines for the Community's external monetary regime.

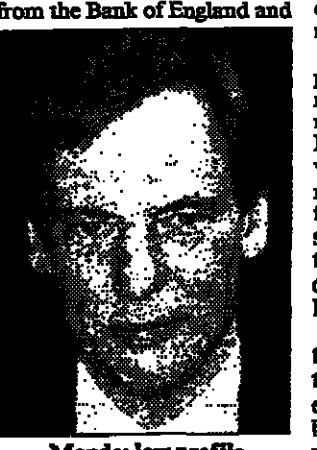
There is also broad consensus in favour of leaving the day-to-day running of exchange rate policy to the bank's governors, seconded from the Bank of England and

parallel institutions from the other EC states. But governments are at odds over the grey area between the ministers' overall strategy and the Eurofed's right to translate it into action.

Germany, backed by the Netherlands, believes the Eurofed should be sealed off as tightly as possible from political interference. Bonn claims longer-term exchange rate objectives set by finance ministers could jeopardise the bank's prime loyalty to price stability. Germany will insist that in such cases, the central bank's commitment to price discipline should take priority over the ministers' exchange rate strategy.

France, backed by the European Commission, wants finance ministers to intervene more regularly if necessary. Britain broadly supports this view but sources in Brussels maintain Francis Maude, the financial secretary to the Treasury, will keep a low profile as the government is still undecided over the creation of Eurofed.

Ministers will also discuss the number of outside experts to be allowed on the bank's executive board, a separate body working alongside the proposed Eurofed.



Maude: low profile

Banks called to account on code

By ANGELA MACKAY

BANK customers could be offered less protection if the draft code of banking practice drawn up by high street banks and building societies is adopted.

The National Consumer Council has rejected the code as doing little more than formalising current practice and failing to meet the objectives suggested by the Jack Committee on banking practice to promote a better relationship between banks and their customers.

Commenting on the code, Lady Wilcox, the chairman of the NCC, said: "The banks succeeded in persuading the government not to introduce laws protecting bank customers by arguing that they would put their own house in order. The draft code of banking practice falls far short of the radical spring-cleaning that is necessary."

Unless it is "substantially strengthened", the NCC will not support the

banks' draft because it will be of "little real help to bank customers, and in one respect could mean that customers will be offered less protection by their banks".

The latter criticism refers to confidential information about customers' financial affairs passed on to other parts of the institution, such as the mortgage, pensions or insurance subsidiaries, without the customer's permission. The NCC said this was not only a breach of confidentiality but also flouted the protection afforded customers under the Data Protection Act.

Failure to provide advance notification of charges is another area the NCC said should be tightened, by informing customers of charges in their bank statements 14 days before the money is deducted to give not only fair warning, but time to challenge a bank's decision.

The NCC said it was anti-competitive for banks to agree on the amount of the

guarantee limit on cheque cards and suggested the code provide for limits to be set individually. The council also recommended banks should give customers more information about cleared and uncleared balances to avoid confusion.

More generally, the NCC said the language of the code implied a backward step for consumers. The council said the balance of protection had shifted away from the customer and back to the institutions.

While the NCC welcomed the banks' commitment to limit customer liability to £50 for unauthorised or phantom withdrawals from cash machines, the group said the duty the draft imposed on customers regarding personal identification numbers was "far too absolute". Customers should only have to do what was reasonable to keep the number secret, the NCC recommended.



Which carrot? New bid from Sears puts pressure on David Jones and the Next board

Recession threatens spending on training

By PHILIP BASSETT

INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

CORPORATE spending on training is increasingly under threat from the recession, as the number of companies planning to cut training expenditure grows.

A survey published today by the joint management-union Industrial Society shows that the large majority of companies plan to maintain or even increase their training spending during 1991, but the proportion planning to cut it has risen by nearly two-thirds.

There is increasing anecdotal evidence that companies are cutting back on training to reduce costs, even though training organisations and the government insist that most companies are too aware of training's longer-term value to cut it back, as most did in the recession of the early Eighties.

Survey work, however, has previously not shown such a sharp fall in the number of companies planning to reduce their training spend.

The Industrial Society has been concerned for some time that, unlike Germany for example, Britain has available few, if any, reliable or detailed statistical series available on training. Its survey is the first by the society intended to monitor developments and trends on the issue.

The first survey, carried out in January among 162 mainly medium and large companies, 56 per cent in manufacturing and 44 per cent in the service sector, shows that 13 per cent think training expenditure in 1991 will be less than in 1990.

In addition to that overt decline, the pressure on training spending is indicated by the fact that the number keeping their spending static has risen sharply, from 28 per cent in 1990 to 48 per cent this year, and the number planning to increase their spend has fallen from 64 per cent to 39 per cent.

Companies give contraction of sales and staff numbers as the main reasons for the decline in training spend.

The survey shows that while

38 per cent of company boards formally review their training policies annually, as many as 53 per cent discuss training only as specific issues arise, while another 9 per cent rarely or never put training on the board agenda.

When it is considered by companies, only 16 per cent of those surveyed feed informa-

tion about training and development into their corporate planning processes.

The survey shows, however, that the majority of companies expect to increase the training of most groups of their employees over the next three years, with service sector groups emphasising a particular need for management training.

Alistair Graham, Industrial Society director, welcomed the "encouraging" commitment to training spending by companies, but said that the United Kingdom's skills gap with its competitors was still "frighteningly large."

A survey by Vista Communications shows that the vast majority of senior managers in Britain's largest companies, as many as 94 per cent, think that Britain's bad training record is due to the poor attitude of management.



Graham: 'large skills gap'

Data may support hopes of rate cut

By COLIN NARBROUGH

ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

DATA on retail sales and industrial production, due today, are likely to support market expectations of a cut in base rates, possibly by a full point, which may also give shares a fresh boost after last week's record highs.

But following the Bank of England's signal on Friday that it wanted interest rates held steady for at least a week, City opinion is divided on whether Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, will pare a whole percentage point off interest rates tomorrow. The base rate was last cut on February 27 to 13 per cent.

The majority of forecasters expect a half-point cut on Budget day, followed by a half point soon after. Some analysts, however, believe Mr Lamont will wait until he has seen how the markets react to his Budget tax measures and economic forecast.

February's retail price index, due on Friday, should provide an ideal backdrop for easing interest rates, as forecasts centre on annual inflation slowing to about 8.7 per cent from 9 per cent in January.

Today's data on retail sales and industrial production will reinforce the case for lowering interest rates rapidly. Manufacturing output is likely to show a fall of 0.2 per cent for January, as companies retrain.

Provisional retail sales for February are expected to show that consumers have not regained confidence, despite the prospect of steadily falling inflation and interest rates.

Figures on the government's finances are likely to show net repayment of £400 million in February. January's repayment was £5 billion.

Market conviction about a full-point cut in base rates has failed to dent sterling, which last week benefited from the dollar's rise against the mark, a cut in Spanish interest rates and a Bundesbank decision not to change key lending rates. The pound ended last week at DM2.9278.

Levels of investment by small businesses dropped sharply in the second half of last year, confirming that the sector has been hit hard by the recession, according to National Westminster Bank. The bank's small business index shows capital investment in the second half was 32 per cent lower than during the first half.

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Chancellor urged not to devalue sterling

By COLIN NARBROUGH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S economic problems are temporary and inflation is neither a deep-seated nor intractable part of the economy, according to leading economists writing in the latest publication of the Institute of Economic Affairs, the free market think-tank.

The book, *The State of the Economy 1991*, is optimistic about Britain's economic fundamentals, but underlines the need for reform.

The Chancellor is urged not to devalue the pound, on the grounds that to do so would threaten the credibility of the government's anti-inflation policy, ultimately leading to higher inflation and interest rates.

Walter Eltis, director general of the National Economic Development Council, says that previous devaluations have always led to higher inflation within three years.

Roger Bootle, chief economist at Midland Montagu, says Britain's inflationary problem has "never been quite as bad as it has looked", with inflation having oscillated around the average for the advanced industrial economies, except in the Seventies.

Bill Martin, chief economist at UBS Phillips & Drew, said: "The current recession is the inescapable growth penalty for the earlier and highly inflationary growth crisis."

Economic View, page 21

British chambers of commerce plan radical restructure

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITAIN'S chambers of commerce are expected to approve a radical restructuring plan this week, which will cut the number of chambers by half and form the basis of a bid to act as a main local delivery mechanism for government programmes.

A conference of representatives of the Association of British Chambers of Commerce (ABCC) in Birmingham on Wednesday is likely to approve the proposal, which is based on a study of current chamber provision carried out by the London School of Economics.

The move, which is supported by government ministers, will mark the most far-reaching change this century to the organisation of the local business support services provided by the chambers.

While the LSE report, prepared by Professor Robert Bennett, says "there is no threat to any existing chamber provided it can play a full part in delivering a quality service in line with its capacity", the conference is expected to back proposals to reduce the network of chambers from 103 to about 55.

In the report, to be published in June, Professor Ben-



Middleton: objective net says improving business support services will benefit the overall quality and performance of the British economy.

The report's conclusion is that the current network of chambers has "remarkable" coverage for a voluntary system. Many British chambers equal or surpass the quality of other continental chambers, which are statutorily supported.

But the study also shows that chambers' membership is far from uniform across the country, with areas such as Durham, Salisbury, parts of Yorkshire, Hereford, parts of the Southwest, Kent, Cumbria, Wiltshire and the Scottish lowlands and highlands being poorly covered.

The LSE study proposes a

minimum criterion of 1,000 members and concludes that applying this standard "shows very large gaps in all parts of the country".

Some chambers are shown to have poor membership densities — the proportion of potential members in an area. The London chamber, though one of the largest in the country, has a density of only 3 per cent, Edinburgh has 7 per cent and Glasgow and Tyne and Wear have 9 per cent each. About 14 per cent of chambers' income comes from membership subscriptions, with the rest from sales of services and some government support.

The report says there is scope for raising more income from subscriptions and suggests doubling real average subscription levels.

Miles Middleton, ABCC president, forecast that the restructuring would be adopted. He said that constituent chambers were "beginning to realise that this is essential if they are to provide at a high enough level and at a high enough quality to British business".

A principal objective of the change was to bring all chambers up to the competitive standard of other European chambers in time for the 1992 single market, he said.



Exercise in expansion

CALLAN Pinckney, the American founder of the Callan Pinckney exercise system, is setting up a franchise chain in the United Kingdom.

After video sales of 1 million worldwide and franchise launches in America, the fast-growing Pinckney empire is looking to expand. Elizabeth Bennett, centre, president of the Callan Pinckney Franchise Corporation, is in London with Jeanne Crouch, left, a director, and Sandy Young, to find a master franchisee for the UK.

Opec needs more cutbacks to reach benchmark \$21

By MARTIN BARROW

FURTHER cuts in production will be required by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) to achieve a stable oil price of \$21 a barrel.

Oil analysts believe that although the first cut ordered by Opec since the end of the Gulf war will ensure the oil price does not weaken, it will be too modest to propel crude much closer to the cartel's target.

Opec's benchmark price is based on a basket of Arabian Gulf crudes, which normally trade between \$1 and \$2 below the more widely traded Brent crude, implying a price of about \$23 a barrel for the North Sea oil. On Friday, Brent for delivery in May traded just below \$18 a barrel, illustrating the gap between Opec's expectations and market reality.

Even after Opec's 5 per cent cut in output, to 22.3 million barrels per day, supply continues to outstrip weakening demand and markets are conscious of the unusually high level of stocks accumulated by western nations before the war.

Both factors have negative implications for oil prices. Yet the lack of a clear pattern for prices since the start of the year leaves the outlook more uncertain than usual.

Dealers have twice been wrong-footed: when oil prices dived spectacularly on the

outbreak of war, and then rose sharply when a ceasefire was declared. So they are cautious about the short-term outlook. Many believe it will be difficult for Opec to secure further production cuts without the support of Saudi Arabia, which must tread a careful path between the oil-thirsty West and price hawks such as Iran on the other.

This month's output cut is seen as an interim measure until a scheduled ministerial meeting of Opec in June.

Several fundamentals may move in Opec's favour. The first is the potential shortage of gasoline in America. Refiners concentrated on producing middle distillates such as heating oil and jet fuel during the war and delayed their normal maintenance shutdowns. As a result, the seasonal switch to gasoline will come much later than normal.

Maintenance will also severely affect North Sea production during the second quarter, reducing non-Opec production by up to 400,000 bpd.

Elsewhere analysts expect further bad news from the Soviet Union, the world's largest oil producer, where infrastructure problems are mounting and production is likely to fall further. It seems certain Iraq and Kuwait will be net importers of crude and petroleum products for much longer than expected.

EC NOTEBOOK

Virgin may drop complaint of BA undercutting fares

VIRGIN Atlantic has said it may drop one of its complaints to the European Commission against British Airways, following last week's deal between London and Washington over transatlantic flights.

Virgin had told Sir Leon Brittan, the competition commissioner, that BA had been undercutting Virgin's fares between London and New York, in breach of EC curbs on the abuse of monopoly power.

The transatlantic air deal may leave room for Virgin to complete with BA between Heathrow and America.

"It now appears likely that Virgin Atlantic's complaint of predatory pricing on Gatwick routes will not progress," said a spokeswoman for the airline.

Virgin will decide within two weeks whether to pursue a separate complaint against BA prompted when the latter deprived Virgin of its maintenance facilities at Gatwick airport.

TRAVELLERS' duty-free allowances could jump 50 per cent this summer if a Dutch plan is agreed by EC governments. Ministers will debate the compromise in Brussels today.

Travellers' quotas are due to disappear in 1993, but Belgium, Ireland and Denmark are anxious to stop their highly taxed citizens from shopping abroad in the meantime.

The Netherlands proposes letting travellers bring 50 per cent more wine, cigarettes and luxury goods back into the country from July 1 this year. This would bring the ceiling up to £420 per person.

THE COST of repairing the damage inflicted on Kuwait by Iraq could run to between £108 billion and £215 billion

over the next ten years, Abel Matutes, the EC's Middle East commissioner has said. Mr Matutes told the European Parliament last week that only worldwide assistance on an unprecedented scale would set the country back on its feet.

He added that most of the cash should come from the region. Steps are also being taken to establish Europe-wide controls on the export of arms. But the commission hopes to create a single European weapons market. It might begin by calling for the removal from the EC treaty of a government's right to use "national security" as an excuse to restrict competition in the arms trade within the EC.

MICHAEL Heseltine, the environment secretary, will tell the commission today to alter its plans for an EC-wide "environment friendly" labelling system. During his first EC council meeting in his post, he will ask Brussels to scrap its "bizarre" idea of appointing a central jury to judge the merits of all products on environmental grounds, according to officials. The British government would prefer to award "eco-labels" itself, with the EC as watchdog.

A single European label — a cog linked to a flower — would show the product had minimum impact on the environment through all stages of production, use and disposal. A Euro-symbol for highly toxic substances — depicting a wilting tree and a fish lying belly upwards — will also be discussed by the ministers.

PETER GUILFORD
Brussels

REPORTING THIS WEEK

BAT could raise payout despite profit fall

BAT Industries, the tobacco to financial services group, will announce a substantial fall in full-year profits on Wednesday when it reports its first annual results since the demerger of Argos and Wiggins Teape Appleton.

Eagle Star will be an important factor, seeing a near £600 million turnaround and making a consolidated loss in excess of £250 million. However, estimates suggest that Eagle Star could enjoy a turnaround of up to £400 million in the current year.

Nyren Scott-Malden at BZW expects pre-tax profits of £975 million (£1.77 billion). But BZW also believes that the total dividend is likely to be increased to 31.1p from 26.4p last time. Market forecasts range from £965 million to £1.01 billion.

Sir Patrick Sheehy, BAT's chairman, should be fairly optimistic on current-year prospects, with a significant recovery expected. Most of the other operations should show a relatively sound underlying performance. Strong progress is expected from tobacco, although this will be offset by adverse currency movements.

BAT's figures will also show a sharp increase in interest payable, mainly because of a large share buyback during the year.

TODAY

Interim: Baxor, Ex-Lands, Honey-suckle Group, Kilmort Development Fund.

Finals: ADT, Alexon Group, Alliance Trust, Astec (BSF), Baltic, Beauford, Bluebird Toys, BPP Holdings, Cantover Investments, Carrington (W), Carbo, Clyde Petroleum, Colongraphic, Daniels (S), Delta, Edinburgh City Holdings, Heston Land Holdings, Holders Technology, Hornby Group, IML, Mamco (Memory and Electronic Components), Metatrax Group, Refuge Group, Rugby Group.

Economic statistics: Retail sales (February — provisional), Index of output of the production industries (January), public sector borrowing requirement (February).



Exceptional contract losses: Watkins of Hawker

TOMORROW

Solid European progress will help final pre-tax profits at Rentokil, the environmental services and property care group, advance from £62 million to £75 million, giving earnings a share of 3.3p (2.7p), according to UBS Phillips & Drew.

Interim: Scholes Group, Final: AAF Investment Corporation, Brink Bros, BSG International, Cambridge Electronic Industries, Dartmoor Investment Trust, Mardun Oriental International, OCE (UQ), Rentokil Group, River & Mercantile American Capital and Income Trust, Sphere Investment Trust, Thorpe Barrow, Trinity International Holdings, White Cotton. Economic statistics: Budget day.

WEDNESDAY

Reckitt & Colman, the food, pharmaceuticals and toiletries group, is usually relatively resistant to recessions. Kleinwort Benson forecasts final pre-tax profits of £235 million (£217.4 million). Market forecasts range from £230 million to £240 million.

The market will be eager to hear how well integration is

proceeding at Boyle-Midway, the \$1.2 billion American household products acquisition. In addition, news is awaited on what is happening in one or two of the group's trickier markets such as Brazil.

Interim: Asca Group, Bankers' Investment Trust, Golden Hope Plantations, Toy Homes, Thomson Corporation, Trace Computers.

Finals: BAT Industries, Bowthorpe Holdings, Britannic Assurance, Dolphin Packaging, Forwell Group, Hibernian Group, Jardine Matheson, Lambert Howarth Group, Matthews (Bernard), Portals Holdings, Reckitt & Colman, Stag Furniture Holdings, Sun Life, Tibbels & Britten Group, Tulow Oil, Wilkes (James).

Economic statistics: London and Scottish banks monthly statement (February), provisional estimates of monetary aggregates (February), construction — new orders (January — provisional).

THURSDAY

A combination of flat sales and rising costs will result in a substantial fall in the interim profits of Barton Group. However, the big issue will be whether the dividend will be maintained.



Brewing up a big profits rise: Tennant of Guinness

Nick Bubb at Morgan Stanley believes there could be a dividend cut to 1.5p (3p) unless there is a rights issue, which would be good news in the long term as it would ease gearing, thought to be on the wrong side of 50 per cent.

Paul Morris at Goldman Sachs forecasts pre-tax profits of £40 million (£116 million) for the half year. Market forecasts range from £27 million to £46 million.

Analysts expect full-year pre-tax profits at Bower, the printing and packaging group, to rise from £100 million to about £110 million.

Charles Pick at Nomura Research Institute has pencilled in final pre-tax profits of £109 million (£183 million) for Cookson Group, the industrial materials group.

Market forecasts range from £95 million to £117 million. News is awaited on the group rationalisation and the details of job losses.

Cookson has been battling

to reduce gearing — now down from a peak of more than 100 per cent to about 43 per cent — with the £160 million sale to ICI of its 50 per cent stake in Tioxide, the pigments manufacturer, followed by the sale of its graphic arts business.

Guinness, the international drinks group headed by Anthony Tennant, is expected to announce a strong advance in final pre-tax profits to £836 million (£691 million), according to Michelle Proud at County NatWest. Forecasts range from £825 million to £850 million.

Spirits, which account for about 70 per cent of profits, will be the star performer, while brewing, making up about 17 per cent of profits, should show solid progress.

However, there are fears that the recession and the Gulf troubles will have affected profits at Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton (LVMH), the perfumes and luxury goods group in which Guinness has a 24 per cent stake.

Final pre-tax profits at Hawker Siddeley, the engineering group headed by Dr Alan Watkins, are expected to decline to £147.5 million (£202.1 million), although this includes £27.5 million of exceptional contract losses, says Sandy Morris at County NatWest. Forecasts range from £142 million to £148 million.

The bad winter weather was good news for Kwik-Fit as it encouraged replacement of worn out tyres and exhausts. BZW expects final pre-tax profits to climb to £18 million (£15 million), including a £1 million property gain.

Nomura Research expects full-year net income at RTZ Corporation, the world's largest mining group, to decline from £588 million to £500 million. Market forecasts range from £487 million to £535 million.

Interim: Burton Group, Cramp-horn, Druck Holdings, Halseid (James) Group, High Income Trust, Maudslays (John) Group, Menzies, Final: Abbeycrest, Abbott Mead Vickers, BNR Resources, Bowler, Brocks Service Group, Cattle Holdings, Cookson Group, Evans Halsey Holdings, EW Fact, Geest, Guinness, Hawker Siddeley Group, Isle of Man Steam Packet, Jacobs (John H), Johnson Group, Kwik-Fit Holdings, Marley, Martin Currie Pacific Trust, Meggit, Morrison (William) Supermarkets, Nestor-BNA, Owners Abroad Group, Robinson (Thomas) Group, RTZ Corporation, Servomex, Smith & Nephew, Steel Bunt Jones Group, Telemetric, Virgin Group, Wessell, Wilson Bowden.

Economic statistics: Industrial and commercial companies (fourth quarter).

FRIDAY

Interim: China & Eastern Investment Co, Foreign & Colonial High Income Trust, Kynoch (G&G), UDO Holdings.

Finals: Ayrshire Metal Products, Davis (Godfrey) Holdings, Hepworth, Jordan (Thomas), Molins, Peak, Thornton Asian Emerging Markets Investment Trust, Wolstenholme Bank.

Economic statistics: Retail price index (February), cyclical indicators for the UK economy (February).

PHILIP PANGALOS



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A BREATH OF FRESH AIR.



THE

New brigade for Glenister

The name of the new brigade commanders is not playing, but it seems to have been chosen by the Home Office. The new brigade is to be based in London and will be responsible for the security of the British Isles. The new brigade is to be based in London and will be responsible for the security of the British Isles. The new brigade is to be based in London and will be responsible for the security of the British Isles.

All that glitters may not be gold

ANATOLE KALETSKY

The golden scenario is back, with a blinding glitter. By this time next week interest rates will probably be a full point lower, the economy will be benefiting from a significant fiscal stimulus and sterling may be higher than it is today. Have the government's critics been confounded? Or will the euphoria again prove short-lived?

The overthrow of Margaret Thatcher has enormously increased the credibility of the government's commitment to the exchange-rate mechanism. It has also improved the Tories' re-election chances, even in the midst of a recession.

As a result, markets have become convinced not only that John Major wants to maintain the exchange rate but also, and more importantly, that he will be politically able to do so.

All this began to be apparent in mid-December. I suggested on Christmas eve that sterling would strengthen and interest rates would fall faster than expected in the early part of 1991.

But now Norman Lamont may be preparing to play his last trump card. This is the option of

moving sterling to the narrow fluctuation band in the ERM. Contrary to widespread expectations, this manoeuvre would not be used to lower sterling's central rate from DM2.95 to DM2.84, with the floor remaining unchanged at DM2.78. Instead, the government would establish narrow bands around the present mid-point of DM2.95.

Officials in the Treasury and the Bank of England quite rightly believe that a move to the bottom of the band would be perceived as a thinly disguised devaluation. Even more importantly, it would make holding sterling less attractive since the downside risk would be unchanged, while the remote possibility of a sharp appreciation above DM2.95 would be eliminated. As a result, the government's room for manoeuvre on interest rates would be lessened by a downward move to the narrow band.

Italy, which used the narrow band ploy to lower its central point more than a year ago, is still paying interest rates of 12 per cent.

A narrow band around DM2.95 would be an entirely different matter. By raising sterling's absolute low point to DM2.885 and allowing the pound to settle in the lower half of this range, Britain might be able to cut interest rates quite rapidly towards the French level of 9½ to 10 per cent.

Of course, this narrowing of bands would amount to a slight revaluation of sterling. The move would, therefore, sharpen the question that has loomed over British economic policy for most of the post-war period: is Britain right to be committing itself to a

relatively high exchange rate in the hope of limiting inflation? Or is this persistent attachment to high exchange rates a root cause of the country's deindustrialisation?

Walter Eltis, one of the intellectual fathers of the government's economic philosophy, notes in *The State of the Economy 1991*, a book published today by the Institute of Economic Affairs, that Britain had "almost the same growth" as Germany and France between 1979 and 1990. But "this growth was achieved with two percentage points less investment", he adds with apparent satisfaction.

Mr Eltis goes on to say that much of Britain's investment in the Eighties was misdirected

towards "an apparently hyper-profitable City, the superiority of which now appears in part illusory".

This leaves a legacy of persistent underinvestment in manufacturing industry, the cause of which could be that sterling has been "significantly overvalued", he concedes. Yet, like all the other economic spokesmen for the government, he dismisses this argument with the standard contemptuous rebuttal: Britain has been devaluing since the late Sixties and where has it got us?

This argument is totally unfounded, as Professor Wynne Godley pointed out in an article in the *New Statesman* this week. The reason why Britain had to devalue in 1967 was that, along with America, it had suffered from an overvalued exchange rate set in the late Forties. Germany and Japan benefited hugely from the corresponding undervaluation of their currencies.

The same story was repeated in the mid-Eighties. The devaluation from 1981 to 1987 was only the mirror image of the disastrous high sterling policy of the first two years of Thatcherism. The outcome of the mid-Eighties devaluation was an export boom that began to feed strongly into manufacturing investment by 1987.

The Seventies were the only period when devaluation simply fed into an inflationary spiral without improving export performance. But this demonstrates a crucial point usually lost in the debates on sterling, ERM and the ERM. A low exchange rate is good for a country's industry, employment and export performance; a persistently falling currency is not.

To devalue the pound and then move immediately into an irrevocable commitment to maintain fixed exchange rates might set off the type of economic miracle seen in post-war Germany and Japan. To engineer a high exchange rate and then to resist a permanently fixed regime like ERM, is to choose the worst of both worlds.

Chancellor could ease plight of industry with stock tax relief

The logic seems impeccable. The Chancellor needs to help an ailing economy but dare not stimulate consumption with big tax cuts. Companies, which perennially petition for Budget concessions but are now really in trouble, hope this will be their year.

Trading problems are bad enough. They have been made worse by the impact on company finances of inflation and peak capital investment at the moment when profits went into reverse. Regular company sector financial surpluses turned into a deficit of £8 billion in 1988, £21 billion in 1989 and £27 billion last year. Interest payments, which absorbed £15 billion of company profits in 1988, took £30 billion last year.

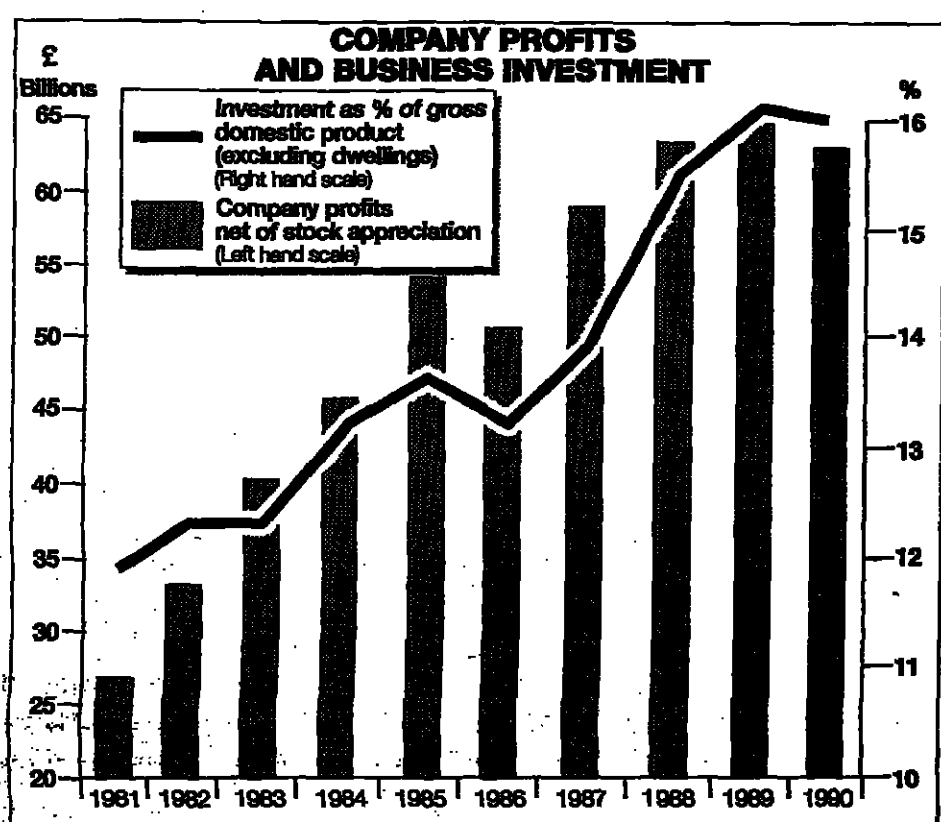
The tax burden has also risen sharply. The yield from corporation tax has increased by an inflation-adjusted £14 billion over six years to a likely £21 billion in 1990-91. On the CBI's calculations, it has doubled as a percentage of national output.

Falling interest rates will be good news for industry in 1991. Unless there is some further help, however, the rate of business investment is likely to plunge back almost to the levels of the bad old days.

The Treasury is not sympathetic to corporation tax concessions, for the staggering rise in yield is in part the reward of a textbook example of successful tax reform in 1984. Nigel Lawson slashed the rate of tax to 35 per cent while removing many distorting reliefs such as fall from-end allowances against investment.

Until recently, the increased yield reflected rising profits in a growing economy with a safer fiscal environment. No Chancellor would want to reverse the simplifying 1984 reforms in response to special pleading. The system was, however, predicated on inflation being beaten out of the economy. The resurgence of inflation has reopened the old arguments.

If tax allowances on capital investment are phased over several years of its life, inflation



cuts up the allowance, raising the real rate of corporation tax. The cost to industry has been estimated at more than £2 billion a year.

Tax is also levied on the inflationary increase in the value of stocks, a process that threatened to bankrupt many manufacturing groups during the high inflation of the early Seventies, until relief was given. In the low inflation years after 1984, stock appreciation was not significant for tax. In 1989 and 1990 combined, however, official statistics suggest profits from stock appreciation were £12.4 billion, laying an enormous inflation tax on business.

If the Chancellor wanted to help, he could choose between general or specific reliefs. A straight cut in the rate of corporation tax would have the advantage of keeping the relative simplicity of the system, but would be indiscriminate and costly in revenue. A cut of 5 points in the rate might cost £1.85 billion in a year when the Institute for

Fiscal Studies expects the yield to fall by more than £2 billion from natural causes.

The CBI suggests a compromise on investment allowances, which would allow capital spending to be written off at 40 per cent a year. This would reduce bias in the system, but might not bring much short-term aid unless backdated. Moreover, the government would not care to admit inflation is back to stay.

Since the Chancellor cannot deny that inflation exists now, however, there is no such objection to the reintroduction of stock relief. Treasury officers would suffer only briefly if inflation subsidies and there could be a base rate of inflation below which the relief would not operate.

The immediate boost to cashflow and profits would be useful. Goldman Sachs calculates relief would boost companies' earnings by 3.3 per cent and that there would be much greater help where needed. Earnings could rise 13 per cent in construction, 10

per cent in aerospace and 6 per cent in engineering.

Smaller companies, which in tax terms run up to £1 million profits a year, have a particular claim to immediate aid from the Chancellor, since they have suffered most in the recession. Qualification for the lower 25 per cent corporation tax band should be raised from £200,000 of profits and the upper limit could rise a lot. In any case, the phasing badly needs redesigning. On the present system, some companies have a marginal tax rate of 37.5 per cent.

The CBI also suggests small companies should be able to write off £50,000 a year of investment in plant and machinery straight away and that inheritance tax on business assets should be abolished. Since a generous package for smaller companies might only cost the Chancellor £500 million, it is also the favourite to claim his sympathy.

GRAHAM SEARJEANT
Financial Editor

Little prospect of Budget cheer

Just before Christmas, as interest rate cuts had to be postponed, Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, was obliged to switch roles at short notice from Santa Claus to Scrooge. Tomorrow, he faces an even greater challenge — to play these roles simultaneously to two different audiences.

The exchange markets and the long end of the gilt market will want to hear more bad news about the economy and more of the government's determination to bring down inflation. But the electorate (not to mention his backbenchers) will want some good cheer about the economy and some goodies to alleviate the pain.

Over recent years, the relevance of the gilt-edged market in Budget analysis has been marginalised. With this year's renewal of the ritual likely to be the last before the general election, the gilt market might expect to be pushed even further to the sidelines. Yet the dramatic change in the state of the public finances must bring it closer to the centre of the Chancellor's

thinking, even if the headlines are taken up with pennies on, or not on, beer and cigarettes.

We expect public finances to move from rough balance this year to borrowing of £12 billion next year. Taking account of redemptions, this will push gross gilt issuance up to £20 billion, or £1½ billion a month. At this size, the authorities have to worry about not only the gilt market's appetite for stock but even the headline writers' reactions.

For what has happened to the much vaunted fiscal surplus and the new era of fiscal responsibility? Doubtless the authorities will emphasise the cyclical causes of the deficit, but having made so much of the horrors of large public borrowing, a PSBR in double figures will look embarrassing even with this excuse.

So what is to be done about the PSBR? The authorities may publish a forecast figure significantly lower than £12 billion, leaving the markets

pleasedly surprised. In view of the difficulty of PSBR forecasting, especially the corporate tax elements, it would not be easy to unpick the details of the official forecast and say it was obviously wrong.

Another option would be to step up the privatisation programme, scheduled to bring in £5½ billion this year. Selling the remaining stake in BT would bring in an extra £8 billion, doubtless spread over a few years, thereby serving to shift some of the financing burden from the gilt to the equity market and helping to reduce an alarmingly high PSBR.

What else could there be for the gilt market in the Budget? With relatively little good cheer around, the Chancellor is likely to make much of improving inflation prospects and reduce his forecast for the fourth quarter from 5½ to 4½ per cent. Yet this is unlikely to stir the market unduly. Many commentators have been

forecasting this for some time. A reduction in the forecast current account deficit from £11 billion to £7 billion or £8 billion or even less will be useful for arguing that the exchange rate is sustainable but is unlikely to bring a stampede in the gilt market. Base rate cuts? A cut in or around the time of the Budget looks a good bet but that too is well in the market.

The upshot is that, short of a surprisingly good PSBR, there seems to be little in this Budget for the gilt market. With inflation set to fall to 3 per cent next year, there is further scope for gilt yields to fall, but not yet. Immediate progress depends largely upon advances in other European bond markets. And that depends a good deal on German policy-makers. After tomorrow's performance, Mr Lamont may wish to send the sackcloth and ashes costume to his counterpart in Bonn, and the glad rags to Frankfurt.

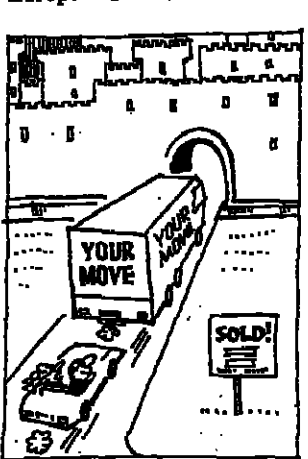
ROGER BOOTLE
Greenwell Montagu

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

New brigade for Glenister

THE game of musical chairs stockbrokers so enjoy playing, when it comes to job swapping, seems to have shifted entirely to the European sector of the market. Swiss Bank Corporation lost two key members of its highly regarded Italian team a week ago, and then, at the end of last week, was dealt another blow when Stuart Glenister, head of UK and European trading, also resigned. Glenister, once an army officer and known as the "brigadier" ever since, will be joining Paribas, the French house, to trade UK stocks and manage its sales trading desk. "He is popular, amiable and we are very sorry to lose him," says the ever-gracious Giles Varley, managing director of SBC. Paribas, meanwhile, has also been poaching new recruits from a number of other firms in the Square Mile, having signed up blonde, Barbados-born Nicolette Conway, aged 24, from Baring Brothers, who will specialise in selling UK and European stocks to Scandinavian, and Italian, analyst

Francesco Picchilli from Salomon Brothers. Not to be entirely outmanoeuvred, the aforementioned Varley, of SBC, points out that he too has had his cheque book out — recruiting Michelle Roasting from First Boston, to run his primary European sales desk, Swiss-born Benoît Demellemeester, ex-Merrill Lynch, to sell derivatives into Europe, and Andrew Stump, from Schroders, to strengthen his European sales team.



"You are going to look silly if they don't reduce interest rates."

An organic growth

CITY dramatists are taking to the stage this week for a short run of *The Little Shop of Horrors*, a suitably gruesome play, bearing in mind the current market conditions. The star of the play, set in a Skid Row florist in the Sixties, is a carnivorous plant from outer space that eats people off the street. Its victims include Gareth Wiley, a market-maker in convertibles with County NatWest, who takes the part of an unscrupulous wheeler-dealer selling plants. "He has settled into the part remarkably well," muses Luke Nunnicley, a fund manager at HD International, who is directing the show on behalf of Theatre in Trust. "We hope it is as close as we get to Skid Row in the next 12 months," he adds. Other stars include Rosanna Chitenden of Dewe Rogerson, who, appropriately, plays the part of a public relations consultant, and an unnamed estate agent who is eaten with relish. The play, which is in aid of the Hospice of St John's and Elizabeth, runs from today till Saturday at the Westminster Theatre in London.

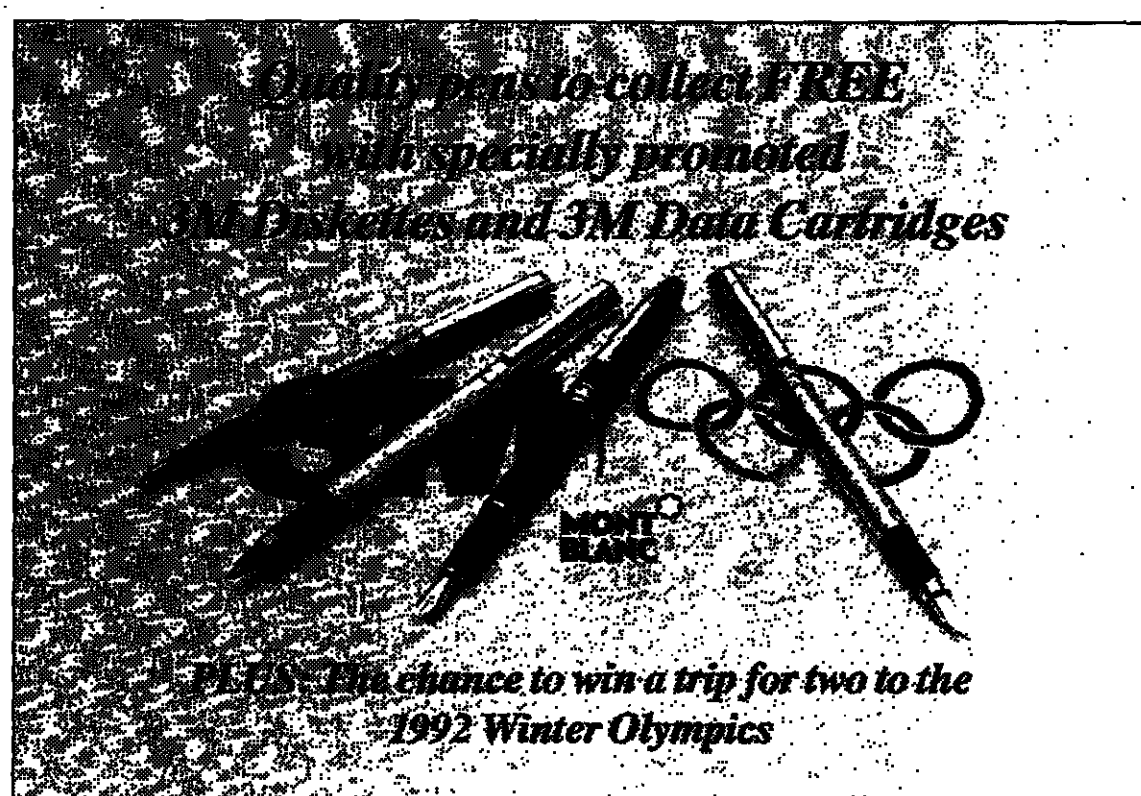
STICKER seen on a car in New York last week: "My karma has just run over my dogma."

Costly Endeavour

ONE of Australia's most ambitious seafaring symbols, a replica of Captain Cook's *Endeavour*, is set to sink to the bottom of the financial ocean. A project to build a full-sized replica of the famous barque was initiated in 1988 by Alan Bond as an Aus\$15 million biennial gift to the Australian people. Now two-thirds complete and Aus\$6 million short of its target, the project seems doomed to failure. When Bond Corp hit stormy seas, the Yoshiya Company of Japan pledged to pick up the bill, only to withdraw its support Aus\$600,000 later because of "financial constraints" brought on by the Gulf war. All 35 employees on the project were laid off in December, and the barque now seems destined to end up as very expensive firewood, unless someone else can be persuaded to stump up the balance — to save a sinking ship.

CAROL LEONARD

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40-78	Century	128	4.6	8.2	8.2
41-10	Century	128	4.6	8.2	8.2
41-11	Century	128	4.6	8.2	8.2
41-12	Century	128	4.6	8.2	8.2
41-13	Century	128	4.6	8.2	8.2
41-14	Century	128	4.6	8.2	8.2
41-15	Century	128	4.6	8.2	8.2
41-16	Century	128	4.6	8.2	8.2
41-17	Century	128	4.6	8.2	8.2
41-18	Century	128	4.6	8.2	8.2
41-19	Century	128	4.6	8.2	8.2
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41-21	Century	128	4.6	8.2	8.2
41-22	Century	128	4.6	8.2	8.2
41-23	Century	128	4.6	8.2	8.2
41-24	Century	128	4.6	8.2	8.2
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41-74	Century	128	4.6	8.2	8.2

1,284,000	Baker Harris	86	+15	2.7	4.3
177.2m	Bilton (P)	411	+11	22.2	54.3
4,404,000	Bourne End	53	..	4.0	7.8
187.4m	Bradford	138	+2	4.5	3.3
31.9m	Bradern	87	+2	3.2	3.7

741.7m	Br Land	289	+12	8.5	2.9
291.2m	Brison	177	..	8.6	4.8
65.2m	Barford	49	..	1.2	2.1
10.2m	Brack & Cousins	38	..	17.6	5.0
7,207.0m	Chaparral Prop	280	+86	3.2	1.1
122.1m	Chaparral	638	+48	24.1	3.8
33.2m	Cherite	67	+8
8,720.0m	Chayne Nickols	47	+3	0.7	1.5
36.1m	Clyburn	8	+14
113.0m	Concord Spec	35*	+4*	1.7	5.1
6,679.0m	Cummins	88	..	12.9	5.0
126.2m	Danjan	260	+15	20.7	3.6
16.7m	Davis Estates	9	+2	1.0	1.1
40.3m	Debbinsom Towner	137	+25	10.3	7.9
3,169.0m	De Morgan	17
26.2m	Dewey	158	..	7.3	4.6
51.1m	Dunsmuir Mktg	86	+33	18.3	1.5

95.5m	Evans Oil Leads	135	+5	4.8	3.4
18.7m	Five Oaks	40	+1	1.3	3.3
8,454.08m	Fletcher King	75	+18	5.0	6.7
106.2m	Prognose	342	+5	18.4	4.8
37.0m	Stranger	185	+25	7.0	3.8
541.4m	Gr Portland	253	+9	12.5	4.9

22.5m	Hammer Up	58	+3	8.1a	8.1
22.5m	Hammer Countryed	58	+3	8.1a	8.1
248.2m	Hammerman	606	+11	28.0	3.8
577.5m	Do 'A'	674	+26	28.0	3.8
3,078,000	Hammer Drive	50	-3	.. a	..
10.5m	Hardanger	140	-8	22.5	16.1
26.5m	Medical Bar	215	+21	13.3	8.2
21.5m	Harring Son	120	+10	8.3	4.6
2.5m	Hammer	50	-3	.. a	..

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Writing on the wall meant head had to go

In the American educational system the attitude of parents can make, or break, the careers of teachers. Lucy Hodges reports

Parent power in American schools is real. Parents raise money for computers, books and classroom materials, conduct letter-writing campaigns against education cuts, organise after-school courses in French, drama and mathematics, run book fairs and can make or break school principals.

With the support of the parents, headteachers can put a school on the map, attract more clever and influential people to the area, raise thousands of dollars for extra equipment and improve test results.

Without that support, the headteachers stand to lose everything: money, staff, pupils, even their jobs.

Sally Veres, the former principal of the 400-pupil Somerset elementary school, in Montgomery county, Maryland, learnt this lesson the hard way. Her fate at the hands of the parent-teacher association, although extreme even by American standards and certainly by those in Britain, illustrates what giving more power to parents involves.

Somerset is used by British families in the area because of its proximity to Washington DC, its village atmosphere and good education system. The British viewed the unfolding drama with a mixture of horror and admiration.

Peter Stothard, the US editor of *The Times*, who has a daughter at the school, at first considered the campaign a witch-hunt, but changed his mind after listening to the arguments.

He says: "I took the British line of support for the underdog, combined with a feeling that it was terrible for a school to have the authority of the head destroyed. To see a situation in which a headteacher can be brought low by parents seemed alien. But once we

knew the facts, it was wonderful to be able to get changes made."

Mrs Veres, an experienced administrator and head of speech therapy in Montgomery county schools, was appointed head of Somerset in 1986. Her knowledge of the byzantine educational bureaucracy was thought to outweigh her lack of classroom experience. She had done the required one year's training, which involved a year working with another head, and two months on her own in charge of a school.

For three years Somerset seemed to run normally, although Pat Barry, a British mother and editor of the PTA newsletter, who has three children at the school, said there were annual shortages of supplies, textbooks and teaching materials.

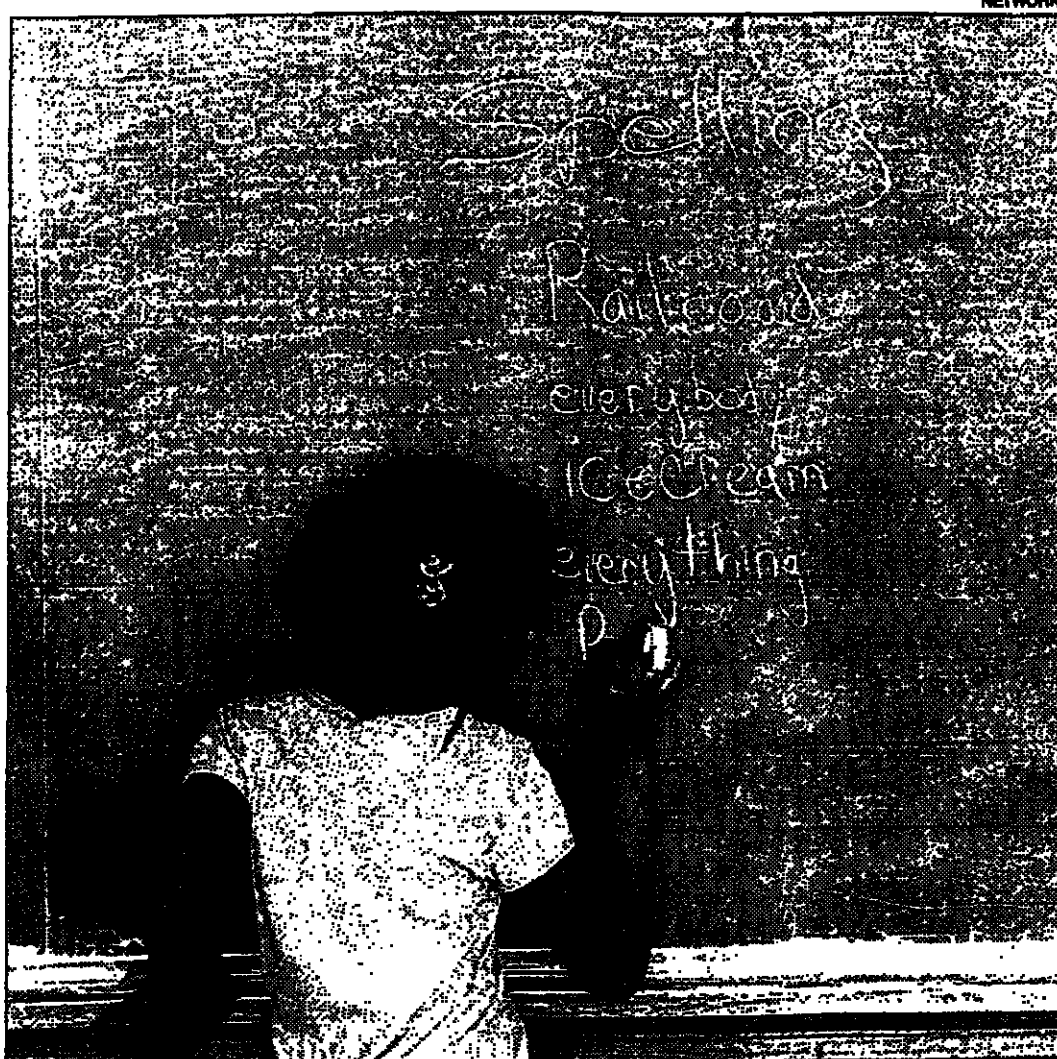
In October 1989 the first bombshell was delivered in the shape of a petition from teachers to Montgomery county complaining about the principal. They alleged lack of organisation and administrative procedures and a failure to appreciate staff needs, to resolve problems and to communicate effectively.

The bureaucratic machine rolled into action with the appointment of an official to look into the teachers' complaints. His review, however, petered out when he retired. All went quiet again at Somerset school.

The two outgoing PTA co-presidents had woken up to what was wrong and began trying to persuade Mrs Veres to resign for the good of the school. She refused.

In June last year, the PTA co-presidents wrote a formal letter to the county, listing their concerns about safety, the academic programme of the school and its leadership. Other parents learnt of the crisis later.

The most passionate complaints



Reading between the lines: pushy parents in America demand high standards of education in schools

were about children getting on and off school buses without adult supervision because, it was alleged, Mrs Veres did not draw up a bus schedule. There were also complaints about school discipline and management.

Mrs Veres did not reply to the allegations, and did not answer telephone messages left for her by *The Times*. County officials, meanwhile, had started to evaluate her performance, a procedure that would have taken the whole of the current academic year, if it had run its course. An advisory committee was set up, comprising the principal, the PTA and teachers, to solve day-to-day problems, and a review was announced into the management and academic programme at the school.

Last summer and autumn, letters flew back and forth between the parents and the educational administrators. The complaints did not stop. In desperation, Montgomery county hauled a head out of retirement to advise Mrs Veres how to do her job, and to complete tasks if she had failed to do so. Gerald Frick, the retired head, was authorised to undertake some jobs immediately, including supervising the boarding and

lighting of school buses. A Montgomery county elementary school supervisor was put in charge of the educational programmes at the school. All this reassured parents, and ensured that changes took place. Mrs Veres hung on.

At this point, the parents as a whole became involved with dramatic effect. At a meeting on November 13, the PTA discussed what was going on for the first time, and passed a motion of no confidence in Mrs Veres by a large majority of the 73 parents present. They expressed anger, as well as fear, that teachers might start to leave the school. The rumour was that 16 out of 17 staff had requested transfer at the end of the academic year.

Then, suddenly, one quiet Friday late in January, it was announced that Mrs Veres was being "reassigned" to a position as a speech pathologist. Mr Frick was to be acting head. Mrs Veres left overnight, saying goodbye to pupils by letter.

The parents had needed months of action, a mixture of private arm-twisting and public pressure, to get the result they wanted. If Montgomery county had followed the customary procedure, it would have taken longer. The county accepted that politics had taken over.

Not surprisingly, Mrs Veres's union, the county association of supervisors and principals, is unhappy, mainly because the evaluation process was hijacked by parent power.

Tom Powers, the association's lawyer, says: "The principal became the victim of the lynch mob. This group of parents went public, which was improper and unfair. They had no feeling for her rights as an employee or a human being."

One parent, Mrs Pat Barry, replies: "I have great sympathy for school staff being criticised, but Americans are very demanding. They expect the best."

Survival lessons

ONE of Britain's top independent schools is making more than a dozen staff redundant. In the latest example of the effects of recession in the sector, Ampleforth College, the £8,000-a-year Roman Catholic school near Helmsley in North Yorkshire, has been forced to make job cuts because of falling pupil numbers.

Up to 13 staff are expected to lose their posts, after a review of the school, although discussions with those under threat are still continuing. Father Dominic Mikroy, the headmaster, said he regretted the redundancies, but the school was not alone in experiencing a drop in the number of entries.

The Benedictine college has more than 600 pupils and 70 teaching staff. Father Mikroy says: "The combination of inflation and recession makes it vital to keep down school fees as much as possible."

In the West Country, the recession has had an even more damaging impact. St Brandon's school, Clevedon, near Bristol, announced closure a month ago because of mounting debts.

Parents now hope to save the school by raising new capital through a debenture scheme and selling property that is no longer used.

A parents' action group issued an investment prospectus last week, and launched a campaign to increase pupil numbers from the present 290 to 400. The school hopes to attract pupils from other West Country schools that are closing because of financial difficulties.

Scottish landing
A MEMBER of the team behind the Apollo moon landing has been appointed professor of business administration and academic director at Stirling university.

Professor Errol Alexander, who was an assistant project manager for the moon landing, formerly headed a management consultancy in the United States.

The professor, who has set his sights appropriately high, says: "My aim is that Stirling's reputation will be synonymous with that of Harvard and Yale."

Student jig
ART and design students from Manchester polytechnic will start to assemble the world's biggest jigsaw today at the city's Armitage Centre. The 2,000

pieces will take up 11,300 sq ft of floor space. The project, which forms part of the students' first-year coursework, has been sponsored by the soft drinks company J.M. Nichols.

Trees of knowledge

PUPILS in Calderdale, West Yorkshire, are to plant a million trees in the district over the next ten years. In the country's biggest-ever planting scheme by a local authority, 35,000 schoolchildren will raise the trees from seed, then plant them at the rate of three a pupil every year until the year 2,000. At an estimated 37p a tree, the scheme will cost £300,000, raised from grants, sponsorship and council funds.

Back to school

GLENYS Kinnock (pictured at a nursery) returns today to the Welsh school where she trained



As a primary school teacher, Moorland primary, in Cardiff, is celebrating its centenary this week, and its most famous teacher has been invited back to unveil a commemorative plaque. Many of the 400 pupils will greet her in Victorian costume to recreate the school's early years.

Single-sex plea

AN association to promote single-sex education for girls and halt the decline in the number of girls' schools has been launched at a weekend conference at Woodford Green in Essex. The Association of Maintained Girls' Schools will publicise research on the subject and provide a forum for discussion.

Only 258 state-maintained schools for girls are left throughout England, and a third of local authorities have none at all. Research suggests that boys dominate mixed classes, but that girls do better at mathematics and the physical sciences in single-sex groups.

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Religious education or indoctrination?

The small Christian boy removed his shoes, wandered barefoot into the mosque, knelt on the prayer mat, ensuring that he faced Mecca, and raised his hands palm upwards in supplication and prayed to Allah.

An incredible scenario? Yet every day in some part of Britain's school system, Muslim children are asked to take part in an act of worship that is mainly Christian in character and so potentially offensive to their community's religious sensibilities, although in accordance with the law of the land.

At the height of the Gulf war, there were reports that Muslim children were being bullied and taunted in playgrounds. The reports, whether true or not, will have added to the pressure on the government to concede state funding for Islamic schools, in the same way that Roman Catholic, Anglican, Jewish and Methodist schools have been funded.

Baroness Cox, the Catholic peeress, this month withdrew a private member's bill designed to extend funding to such schools, having set down a marker for future legislation.

How do British Christians handle multi-faith education? The Rev John Bailey, an Anglican priest who has worked in an inner-city London comprehensive and is now, in retirement, schools officer for the Lincoln diocese, says: "In the 1988 Education Reform Act, for the first time it is enshrined in law that we have to take account of

Every day, schools take part in Christian worship, regardless of pupils' beliefs.

Tom Murphy reports

other faiths. Lincoln is committed to multi-faith education. Mr Bailey adds: "We do not see our job as missionary. It is to be Christian in our approach to teaching, but to respect other faiths. There is a curious British tradition that parents expect their children to be given that which they themselves have long given up."

"The purpose of religious education is to reflect on the purpose of life. I do not believe anybody could call themselves educated unless they had studied the great religions of the world. That is very different from Jewish, Anglican or Catholic nurture, which is the job of churches. Most Catholics, for example, do not get religious education, but Christian nurture - it is a form of indoctrination."

This is significant in view of the attention Catholics pay to RE as an academic subject. According to surveys conducted by Anthony Clark, an education officer with Cardinal Hume's Westminster diocese, the 470 Catholic secondary schools in England and Wales contribute more than 50 per cent of the pupils who take religious

education as a GCSE subject. In those schools, between 75 and 80 per cent of fifth formers take a GCSE in religious education.

The Catholic church in England and Wales has been pioneering a new RE system called "Weaving the Web". Traditionalists among parents and clerics, have criticised the system because it requires Catholic pupils to spend time studying other religions, such as Islam.

Mr Clark says many Catholic educators are pressing in the opposite direction - they want to be able to teach an exclusively Catholic syllabus. At present, about 50 per cent of the material available on the syllabus is of a Catholic nature. The education acts specifically exclude, Mr Clark says, a syllabus devoted entirely to one denomination. "A GCSE," he says, "must be open to people of all faiths, and no faith at all."

Father Harry Stratton, the secretary to the department of Catholic education and formation, defends the Catholic approach. "The ethos of the school is about Christian nurture, but in RE, that is where we educate," he says. "If people think we are indoctrinating, then we have failed. The Catholic bishops say that first you must understand your own faith. If you understand Islam as well, you understand your own faith better."

Regardless of the subject matter, the twin peaks of difficulty facing religious educators are lack of time and lack of teachers. Religious education has been declared a part



Let us pray: a typical morning assembly scene at schools throughout Britain in which children worship together in the Christian tradition

of the basic curriculum, but not of the national curriculum. The religious educators like to see this as a confirmation of its ultimate importance but, in practice, the administrators are treating RE as an afterthought when they construct their models for classroom periods. The Catholic bishops have demanded that 10 per cent of teaching time is spent on RE.

Mr Clark records an average shortage of one RE teacher per Catholic secondary school. Mr Bailey describes a "hidden short-

age" of qualified teachers. There are many who have a Christian belief and teach RE, but many fewer who can claim academic qualifications in the subject.

There are Catholics, Anglicans and Methodists who will support the concept of a Muslim school. Michael Bovill, an adviser on secondary education to the Catholic Education Council, says: "So long as they are providing an education, then the pot cannot call the kettle black. My only concern is, knowing a little about the

Muslims, would you get equal opportunities for girls? The schools have to be educationally valid."

The Rev Chris Hughes Smith, the general secretary of the Methodist division of education and youth, who worked in multi-cultural Birmingham, considers sensitivity the key. "I think some of us are misreading," he says. "A lot of Sikhs, Muslims and Hindus are perfectly happy to go along with the system, provided it does not become oppressive. There is a

general bewilderment in our country."

Mr Bailey believes RE is educationally "essential". He says: "That is totally different from saying that school worship is essential. I think the government is very confused on this issue. It reinforces the 1944 act to make religious worship in a Christian tradition compulsory. I think that is incapable of fulfilment. You can take a child to assembly, but you cannot make him worship. It alienates to compel."



Playground bullies may be doing more than causing a term or two of misery for their victims. Research by the academic widely regarded as the world's leading authority suggests that bullies may be inflicting lasting psychological damage.

Professor Dan Olweus, of Bergen university, in Norway, has been examining bullying in schools for more than 20 years, surveying more than 150,000 pupils. He has assessed the long-term effects on people who left the education system long ago.

The results of a follow-up study of men now aged 23 are surprising. They show that the victims of bullying soon resume a normal life, once they leave school, and are no more likely than their peers to be

Bullies' fists mark their victims for life

A long-running study of violence in schools reveals that it can lead to long-term depression in adulthood

harrassed or socially isolated in young adulthood.

Yet the former victims remain subject to higher than average levels of depression and retain a negative view of themselves. Medical and psychological tests suggest that they are not inherently depressive, and that the experience of victimisation is the main factor in their adult state of mind.

Tests show that the former victims are not especially introverted. They are not particularly anxious or inhibited in social activity, and

have not been classed as disturbed personalities.

Professor Olweus explains: "Boys who are victimised are likely to have certain pre-victim characteristics, but many of them would probably function reasonably well if they were not exposed to repeated bullying and harassment over long periods." Although they tended to be physically weak and over-protected at home, their problems could not be attributed to personality disturbance.

Feelings of inadequacy and a tendency to depression take

on a life of their own even after the original cause, bullying, no longer exists. The research cannot yet determine how serious the victims' depression is in clinical terms, but Professor Olweus believes their depression is serious enough to worsen the quality of some victims' lives.

He believes that the full consequences may become evident only at a later age. Since a high proportion of young people who attempt suicide are depressive, there may be more serious results in the long term. A government

initiative to combat bullying in Norwegian schools had its roots in the discovery that three boys, aged between ten and 14, had taken their own lives after being severely bullied.

The latest research, to be published later in the year in a book on social withdrawal in childhood, provides further ammunition for Professor Olweus's attempts to have his intervention programmes to combat bullying adopted more widely. Their introduction in Bergen schools halved the incidence of bullying, and

the Home Office is now showing interest.

The programmes involve whole classes, their teachers and parents, discussing what constitutes acceptable behaviour and setting penalties for those who transgress. Professor Olweus sees the approach as more constructive and probably more productive than the fashionable "bully courts".

"Some bullies may relish the attention of such courts, making them counter-productive," he says. "Bullies also tend to be good at talking

themselves out of difficult situations, while their victims are naturally timid and unlikely to accuse those bullying them."

Earlier studies by Professor Olweus put the proportion of children bullied at some time in their school lives at one in seven, while researchers at Sheffield university put the proportion at one in five. Sixty per cent of bullies have a court conviction by the time they are 24, and 40 per cent have three convictions.

Professor Olweus adds: "Since 1950, there has been a 500 per cent increase in criminality in western societies. To handle these problems, we must start earlier, and school is the obvious place."

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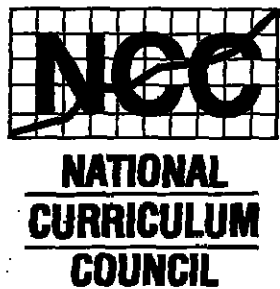
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This key management post based at the National Curriculum Council in York is about to become vacant following the appointment of Dr Richard Dorrance to the post of Secretary and Deputy Chief Executive at SEAC.

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UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

Continued on next page

UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Ref. 90/91-49)

Applications are invited for appointment to the newly established, full-time post of Deputy Vice-Chancellor. The University is expanding rapidly, and intends to appoint to this important post a person of the calibre and potential expected of a Vice-Chancellor.

In addition to deputising for the Vice-Chancellor as necessary, the appointee will be expected to develop the scale and quality of the University's activities in the field of research, in a climate of increasing financial support and growing numbers of postgraduate research student places. If appropriate, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor may be appointed to an Honorary Professorship.

The salary for the post will be not less than the average of the non-clinical professional range, which is currently HK\$64,000 per month (approximately negotiated with the selected appointee, but will be for not less than 3 years. There is no set retirement age for the post. The appointee may carry either membership of the University's superannuation fund, or gratuity of 25% of the salary earned during the appointee's service. Housing, passages, leave, and health care are among the benefits also provided.

Further particulars and application forms may be obtained from Appointments (39177), Association of Commonwealth Universities, 36 Gordon Square, London WC1E 6PF, UK; or from the Appointments Unit, Registry, University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong (Fax (852)-5592858; E-mail APPTUNIT@HKUVM.LINK.HK).

Closes 10 May 1991.

UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

SPECIAL LECTURER IN PERFORMANCE STUDIES

The University invites applications for this post in the Department of Drama for a ten month period from October 1st, 1991. Duties will include taking practical courses and projects and undertaking one or more productions with students in the University Theatre and/or the Stephen Joseph Studio.

Salary range p.a.: £10,421 - £13,911. Particulars and application forms (returnable by April 1991) from the Registrar (Academic Staffing Office), the University, Manchester M13 9PL (Tel 061 275 2028).

Closes ref. 77/91. The University is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

St George's Hospital Medical School

University of London

Foundation Chair of Anaesthesia

Applications are invited for the Foundation Chair of Anaesthesia tenable at St George's Hospital Medical School.

This new Chair has been created by the School, University and the South West Thames Regional Health Authority to encourage innovative research and teaching in Anaesthetics and to assist in the development of the service provision of Anaesthetics in the District. This appointment, together with those of a Clinical Senior Lecturer and two Clinical Lecturers, will form the basis for a major academic development in Anaesthetics.

Applications are welcome from academic clinical anaesthetists. In addition to research, the successful candidate will have an important role in developing undergraduate and postgraduate teaching, and will be awarded an honorary consultant contract by the Wandsworth Health Authority.

Candidates wishing to discuss the post informally are invited to contact the Dean of the Medical School, Professor William Ascher, (081 872 3122). Applications (13 copies) together with the names of 3 referees to be sent to the Personnel Officer, St George's Hospital Medical School, Cranmer Terrace, London SW17 0RE, from whom further particulars may be obtained (answerphone: 081 784 2791). Please quote reference 30/91. Closing date for applications 31 May 1991.

University College and Middlesex School of Medicine

Manager of Finance and Planning for the Board of Medicine

The Board of Medicine, a newly created multi-departmental unit in the School of Medicine invites applications for the new position of Manager of Finance and Planning for the Board. The appointee will be responsible for planning, directing, organizing and managing strategic and financial planning and will direct the budget process for the Board. The individual selected will report to the Chairman of the Board of Medicine and will develop annual and long range projections for various projects undertaken by the Board, report on the accuracy and integrity of financial data and evaluate options for new projects including detailed financial projections.

Applicants should have at least 5 years experience of financial planning and of business management or public sector administration, and should have a degree or relevant professional qualification. Some accounting experience would be advantageous.

An attractive salary is offered on the Grade 5 scale for University Administrative Staff (£22,655 - £26,471 p.a. plus London Weighting of £1,767). Applications in the form of a curriculum vitae, including the names and addresses of 3 referees, should be sent to Professor Leon G. Fine, c/o The Deputy Secretary, University College and Middlesex School of Medicine, Riding House Street, London, W1P 7PN. Further particulars may be obtained by writing, or phoning 071-380-9384. The closing date for applications is 5 April 1991. An equal opportunity employer.



The King's School Ely Cambridgeshire

Appointment of Head

The Governors of The King's School, Ely invite applications for the post of Head which will become vacant on 1st September 1991 on the retirement of Mr. Hubert Ward.

The successful applicant will be a graduate and a communicant member of the Church of England.

Full particulars of the post may be obtained from The Bursar's Office, The King's School, Ely, Cambs CB7 4DB.

Applications must be sent to the Clerk to the Governors, c/o The Bursar's Office, to arrive not later than 3rd May 1991.

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[Judgment March 12]
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Act 1990, challenging the validity
of part of the local authority's
plan to create a new planning
area in the town of Wyke.
The plumbers' plan was a
subsequent plan to a
previous plan which had been
approved by the local authority.
The plumbers argued that the
plan was invalid because it
was not in accordance with the
planning policy of the local
authority.

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Applications including the names and addresses and telephone/fax numbers of three referees should be submitted not later than 1991 to the Human Resources Manager, Curtin University of Technology, GPO Box U1987, Perth Western Australia 6001. Telephone enquiries to Professor D Spedding (08) 940 220 101. For conditions of employment, telephone (08) 941 7004.

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For application form and further particulars (Ref 45/91) contact the Personnel Office, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow G1 1XQ. Applications Closing Date: 12th April 1991.

UNIVERSITY OF STRATHCLYDE

LECTURESHIPS

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School of Modern History
Applications are invited for a lectureship in Irish history, suitable from 1 October 1991 or such other date as may be arranged. Specialists in any field of Irish history post-1800 will be considered, but preference may be given to applicants with research interests in the 18th/19th centuries. Informal enquiries may be made from Dr P.J. Jupp, Acting Director of School (0232) 248133 (ext 3420) or Professor D.W. MacKinnon, Professor of Irish History (0232) 248133.

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Further particulars (Please quote ref 90/7) are available from the Personnel Office, The Queen's University of Belfast BT7 1NN. Northern Ireland Telephone (0232) 248133 ext 3044 or FAX (0232) 247680. Closing date: 17 April 1991.

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MERIDIAN (Rec Cons)

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ADVERTISING SECRETARY to £15,000. This is an excellent opportunity for a highly motivated and hard working individual to join a leading financial services company. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day to day running of the company's advertising department. The role involves a high level of responsibility and a high degree of autonomy. The successful candidate will be required to work long hours and to be available for travel. The salary is £15,000 per annum plus a generous management sub and benefits. The successful candidate will be required to have a minimum of 5 years experience in advertising. The successful candidate will be required to have a minimum of 5 years experience in advertising. The successful candidate will be required to have a minimum of 5 years experience in advertising.

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SPORT

Blanco signs off with a World Cup warning

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

SERGE Blanco, the French full back and captain who played his last match in rugby union's five nations' championship at Twickenham on Saturday, left the victorious England side with a warning.

Looking ahead to the World Cup, Blanco, who intends to retire afterwards, said that the team that lost the first match of the tournament, between England and New Zealand on October 3, would lose the World Cup.

and that England "could choose" the venue for their next meeting with France — Paris in October, or Twickenham in November.

Blanco was referring to the World Cup draw: if England, by losing to New Zealand, are runners-up in group one, the likelihood is that they will meet France in Paris on October 19. If both sides win consistently, they will meet only in the final at Twickenham on November 2.

The English team, having won its first five nations' championship since 1980 by beating France 21-19, will tour Australia

and Fiji in the summer as northern hemisphere champions. "We have successfully completed phase one for this year," Geoff Cooke, the team manager, said. "We have the platform we wanted for the World Cup. We have won something and it puts us into a good frame of mind. That's important, but at this distance it doesn't affect how we will progress in the World Cup."

Will Carling, the England captain, identified ball-winning capacity at the set-pieces, a strong defence and powerful runners, as his side's strengths. "We are a

very well-balanced side, very hungry to win," he said. "We have worked hard and we deserve it."

Michael Pearce, the Rugby Football Union president, presented Blanco with a framed painting in recognition of his services to rugby in 85 matches over the past decade. Blanco was philosophical in defeat. "In under a year we have turned the team round and we are now playing 'whole' rugby and really enjoying ourselves," he said.

This team has only been together for two months, it has

not enough experience. We were not expected to play a grand slam match at the start of this season but our primary objective remains the World Cup.

Daniel Dubroca, the French coach, agreed with Roger Uttley, his English counterpart, that England's ability to sustain their efforts for the full 80 minutes was vital to their success, but he said that England would be well-advised to make better use of all 15 players, rather than rely on their forwards.

The game's first try, the finest of the championship and prob-

ably, Pearce said, of the decade, was started by Blanco behind his own line and finished by Philippe Saint-Andre. "It put me out of my seat," Jean Trillo, the French assistant coach, said. "We must maintain this kind of emotion in the game."

Albert Ferrasse, the autocratic president of the French federation for the last 23 years, revealed that he intends to step down at the end of the year, even if he wins the presidential election on April 13.

Match report, page 28

Campbell puts Arsenal back on top of table

By STUART JONES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

Arsenal 2
Leeds United 0

KEVIN Campbell, the understudy for the injured Anders Limpar, has enhanced Arsenal's chances of achieving the double this season. The 21-year-old, who scored the winners in the fourth and sixth rounds of the FA Cup, yesterday claimed the late goals which restored the club to the top of the first division.

Ahead of Liverpool on goal difference, Arsenal should extend their lead on Wednesday night when they stage their game in hand. They play Nottingham Forest in a potential dress rehearsal of the FA Cup final and the fixture is

sure to be more attractive than the humbly dull event at Highbury.

Four of the five previous meetings between the clubs this season had finished in draws and, with familiarity apparently deadening every imagination, the stale pattern seemed likely to continue. Even Arsenal's followers preferred to stay away. The crowd of 26,218 was the second lowest of the season.

Campbell, brought in when Limpar was hurt in the goalless draw against Leeds United a month ago, at least lifted the end of the dreary afternoon but Arsenal were far from convincing. Though as efficient and resilient as usual, theirs was merely marginally the better of two undistinguished displays.

Howard Wilkinson, the Leeds manager, put their victory into perspective. "We weren't at the races," he said. "That was a long, long way short of the standard we've set. We've lost our drive, not just in midfield but collectively. We didn't compete and I feared the defeat would be worse."

"The sides didn't so much cancel each other out. We cancelled ourselves out and if you are not playing well, you expect to concede goals. Arsenal didn't have to do much to beat us. It was a scappy, untidy game and it probably looked awful on television."

Apart from Adams' leaden-footed and wayward attempt in the opening minute, only two genuine opportunities were fashioned for more than an hour. Merson, though unfortunate that his first attempt should be deflected off the boots of Lukic and Fairclough, lofted the other over the bar.

Although Campbell was visibly far swifter than Whitton on the right flank, Arsenal persisted in directing their limited ideas towards the head of Smith. Leeds, who were even more aimless, pursued a similar and utterly futile policy of lobbing balls towards Chapman and Arsenal's three central defenders.

"We kept grinding away," George Graham, the Arsenal manager, said. "And anyone who thinks that games against Leeds are going to be pretty in for a shock. They are one of the most disciplined sides in the country." Their defence, spared from severe damage, was broken initially in the 78th minute.

Smith released Campbell inside the area and the youngster threaded his shot between the legs of Lukic. A few minutes from the end, Fairclough's feeble back-pass presented him with only his fourth League goal of the season.

"Our system suits him," Graham said. "He has power and pace and he knows what is expected of him." Campbell, who has been nurtured in the youth and reserve teams, later revealed the extent of his scoring ability. In 143 junior appearances for the club, he has so far claimed 128 goals.

Villa revived, page 30

Both sides in Tottenham takeover rule out record transfer



Larger than life welcome: Lazio supporters offer an early taste of Roman hospitality to Gascoigne during the match with Cagliari yesterday

Gascoigne sale is the final option

By DENNIS SIGNY

AFTER a weekend of confusion about how Tottenham Hotspur intend to sort out their financial problems, saying their bankers, shareholders and supporters, it last night became clear that transferring Paul Gascoigne to Lazio, of Rome, for a world record fee of £8.5 million is just one of a number of options.

Both Irving Scholar, the under-pressure chairman of the football club, and Terry Venables, the manager, who is also part of a consortium that has made a £20 million approach to purchase the club, speak with one voice against selling Gascoigne.

Scholar has maintained for months his position that he will not preside over the sale of the England midfielder player, and Tottenham have insisted that Gascoigne has not been sold and that other refinancing packages are placed higher on the agenda.

The sale of Gascoigne is the last option," was the Tottenham line yesterday. "The deal is on hold."

Venables, too, made it clear at the weekend that any purchase of the club by his consortium, which is headed by Larry Gillick, a Scottish entrepreneur, involved Gascoigne remaining at White Hart Lane.

That message did not reach

Rome. There, Lazio supporters displayed a huge banner saying "It's ready for you, Gazza" and another showing a glass of beer in salute to the club's efforts to sign Gascoigne. Lazio drew 1-1 with Cagliari.

No formal offer from Lazio has gone to the Tottenham board, and the next stage would seem to be the 5pm deadline today imposed by the directors for the consortium to establish that £10 million is in place to buy back shares, with another £10 million to pay back loans to Midland Bank.

The Tottenham directors have agreed this deal in principle; Venables says they have

shaken hands on it, and only minor details remain to be sorted out. Even if the consortium fails to establish its financial bona fide, alternative offers, partial offers, and recapitalisation proposals will be considered ahead of selling Gascoigne, who has two years of his contract remaining.

Venables has less time. His own contract expires at the end of this season, and, if his dream of taking over fails, he is likely to move on. His talks with Scholar on a new deal earlier this season were left in abeyance until the club's financial position was resolved.

One difficulty for all sides, including Nat Solomon, the recently-elected chairman of Tottenham's public company, is that rules of confidentiality about offers with the International Stock Exchange involved preclude comment and lead to speculation. Although all parties, with the exception of Lazio, seem intent on battling to keep Gascoigne at White Hart Lane, it is hard to publicly and summarily dismiss a chance to recoup £8.5 million when shares are suspended and debts so high.

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Four sent off as Celtic win

By RODDY FORSYTH

THREE players from Rangers and one from Celtic were sent off before the home team completed its win in an acrimonious Scottish Cup quarter-final at Parkhead yesterday.

Rangers finished without Terry Hurlock, Mark Walters and Mark Hateley. Peter Grant, of Celtic, was also shown the red card.

The catalogue of misdemeanours in the fifth Old Firm meeting this season also included bookings for Rogan and Johnston, of Celtic, and Nisbet, of Rangers, whose manager, Graeme Souness, said: "I would like to apologise for the lack of discipline of my team. I never thought I would see the day they would display such indiscipline."

Souness also revealed that Trevor Steven, who was carried off during the first half with ligament damage to his left knee, would be out of action for the rest of the season and will consequently miss England's European championship match against the Republic of Ireland at Wembley next week.

The first red card was produced by the referee, Andrew Waddell, seven minutes into the second half. Grant, who had been cautioned

shortly before for impeding Johnston, stood too near the ball when Rangers were awarded a free kick.

Rangers' numerical advantage was short-lived, however. As he emerged from a tackle by Coyne, Hurlock elbowed the Celtic forward in the face. Ten minutes from time, Walters swung his arm at Coyne and was dismissed. With Rangers in disarray, Hateley joined the list of forcible resignments when he punched Rogan after the Celtic defender had struck him on the face. Rogan was cautioned but was fortunate not to have been sent off as well.

Taylor, who was at the televised game at Highbury, was relieved that no other casualties were reported over the weekend. He has already lost Gascoigne, McMahon

and Webb from his midfield away from the tempestuous Glasgow derby yesterday, has been ruled out of the England squad to be announced by Graham Taylor today.

The Rangers' midfielder player has damaged a cartilage and knee ligaments and he may require an operation, which will keep him out for the rest of the season.

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Wood's self-help regime falters

From ANDREW LONGMORE, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT
KEY BISCAYNE, FLORIDA

THE gospel of self-help seems to have worked wonders for Clare Wood. Since she parted company with her coach at the end of last year and trusted to her intuition, as she calls it, the British No. 6 has reached the third round of the Australian Open and of the Lipton International in Key Biscayne, which has a field, if not quite the feel, of a grand slam.

Wood's gallant run took her through qualifying and to the best win of her career against the No. 11 seed, Helen Klesli, in the second round. It ended yesterday as Wood, playing her sixth match in seven days, found the raw power of the Californian, Marianne Werdel, too hot to handle and subsided 6-3, 6-1.

Wind and rain threatened all morning and it was not the day to encourage Wood's commitment. "She hits the ball so hard and I just wasn't sticking in the rallies the way I had the day before," she said.

Broken in the fifth game of the first set, Wood could not gain as much as a toothhold in the match. She quickly went

Olazábal wards off the jitters

From MEL WEISS
MARRAGONE

JOSÉ MARIA Olazábal duly won the Catalan Open near here yesterday to go to the top of the European money list. But his victory by six shots from David Feherty was never quite the triumphal march it had threatened to be when he went in the previous night holding a seven-stroke lead.

The Spaniard, who had a 73 to win with a total of 271, 17 under par, has now pocketed almost £93,000 in the first three weeks of the season and also recorded the biggest win on the European Tour since Colin Montgomerie took the

Portuguese Open by 11 shots in 1989.

The southwest wind that the players had feared sprang up on the first morning, making club selection a headache and demolishing the commentary boxes for Spanish television. But Olazábal's final battle had to be waged with himself, not the elements. Nobody can take liberties with the Bonmont Tenismoves course and in these conditions the over-cautious will be penalised as much as the over-confident.

Olazábal had four bogeys in taking 40 strokes to the turn and his lead over Feherty had been cut to three. On the tenth

hole, Olazábal sank a 25-foot birdie putt from the back of the green while Feherty dropped a shot, taking three putts from a similar position. The gap was never closer than five after that.

Mike McLean played well enough, and a 73 put him into third place, a stroke behind Feherty and one ahead of Steve Richardson and Eduardo Romero. They may deny it, but Richardson and McLean must be having thoughts of fittings for a Ryder Cup blazer.

Final scores (54 holes, US unless stated): 271: J. Olazábal (Sp), 68, 64, 69, 68; 272: D. Feherty (Ir), 71, 67, 72, 62; 273: S. Richardson (Eng), 70, 70, 72, 61; 274: M. McLean (Scot), 70, 70, 72, 61; 275: E. Romero (Sp), 70, 70, 72, 61; 276: J. Hoggarty (Scot), 71, 70, 72, 61; 277: J. Bland (Eng), 71, 70, 72, 61; 278: J. Bland (Eng), 71, 70, 72, 61; 279: J. Bland (Eng), 71, 70, 72, 61; 280: J. Bland (Eng), 71, 70, 72, 61; 281: J. Bland (Eng), 71, 70, 72, 61; 282: J. Bland (Eng), 71, 70, 72, 61; 283: J. Bland (Eng), 71, 70, 72, 61; 284: J. Bland (Eng), 71, 70, 72, 61; 285: J. Bland (Eng), 71, 70, 72, 61; 286: J. Bland (Eng), 71, 70, 72, 61; 287: J. Bland (Eng), 71, 70, 72, 61; 288: J. Bland (Eng), 71, 70, 72, 61; 289: J. Bland (Eng), 71, 70, 72, 61; 290: J. Bland (Eng), 71, 70, 72, 61; 291: J. Bland (Eng), 71, 70, 72, 61; 292: J. Bland (Eng), 71, 70, 72, 61; 293: J. Bland (Eng), 71, 70, 72, 61; 294: J. Bland (Eng), 71, 70, 72, 61; 295: J. Bland (Eng), 71, 70, 72, 61; 296: J. Bland (Eng), 71, 70, 72, 61; 297: J. Bland (Eng), 71, 70, 72, 61; 298: J. Bland (Eng), 71, 70, 72, 61; 299: J. Bland (Eng), 71, 70, 72, 61; 300: J. Bland (Eng), 71, 70, 72, 61.

Rain lets Faldo celebrate at home

From JOHN BALLANTINE
IN ORLANDO, FLORIDA

NICK Faldo is able to attend the second birthday party of his son, Matthew, at home today after the fourth round of the \$1 million Nestle Invitational was cancelled here yesterday because of heavy rain.

Faldo junior was two years old yesterday and the party had been planned to take place in the family's Surrey home near Ascot a day late.

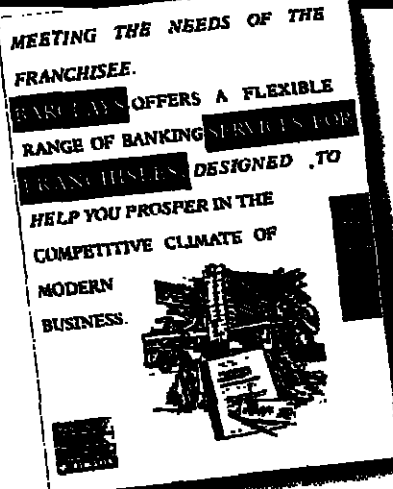
"So it wouldn't have been a disaster to have had it on Tuesday had the tournament gone into an extra week," Faldo said yesterday. "Real possibility seemed very real until officials decided to give the awful weather best. Andrew Magee, aged 28, of Arizona, won the shortened 55-hole event by two strokes over Tom Sieckmann and Mark Calcavecchia and Steve Pate in joint-third place. Faldo will fly back on

Sunday for the Tournament Players Championship at Ponte Vedra next week which features the top twenty players in the world. If he continues to show the excellent form he displayed here under the constant eye of his coach, David Leadbetter, Faldo could do very well either there or at the US Masters in early April where he will attempt to win

an unprecedented third green jacket.

FINAL SCORES (54 holes, US unless stated): 268: A. Magee (US), 68, 68, 68, 68; 269: J. Bland (Eng), 69, 69, 69, 69; 270: J. Bland (Eng), 69, 69, 69, 69; 271: J. Bland (Eng), 69, 69, 69, 69; 272: J. Bland (Eng), 69, 69, 69, 69; 273: J. Bland (Eng), 69, 69, 69, 69; 274: J. Bland (Eng), 69, 69, 69, 69; 275: J. Bland (Eng), 69, 69, 69, 69; 276: J. Bland (Eng), 69, 69, 69, 69; 277: J. Bland (Eng), 69, 69, 69, 69; 278: J. Bland (Eng), 69, 69, 69, 69; 279: J. Bland (Eng), 69, 69, 69, 69; 280: J. Bland (Eng), 69, 69, 69, 69; 281: J. Bland (Eng), 69, 69, 69, 69; 282: J. Bland (Eng), 69, 69, 69, 69; 283: J. Bland (Eng), 69, 69, 69, 69; 284: J. Bland (Eng), 69, 69, 69, 69; 285: J. Bland (Eng), 69, 69, 69, 69; 286: J. Bland (Eng), 69, 69, 69, 69; 287: J. Bland (Eng), 69, 69, 69, 69; 288: J. Bland (Eng), 69, 69, 69, 69; 289: J. Bland (Eng), 69, 69, 69, 69; 290: J. Bland (Eng), 69, 69, 69, 69; 291: J. Bland (Eng), 69, 69, 69, 69; 292: J. Bland (Eng), 69, 69, 69, 69; 293: J. Bland (Eng), 69, 69, 69, 69; 294: J. Bland (Eng), 69, 69, 69, 69; 295: J. Bland (Eng), 69, 69, 69, 69; 296: J. Bland (Eng), 69, 69, 69, 69; 297: J. Bland (Eng), 69, 69, 69, 69; 298: J. Bland (Eng), 69, 69, 69, 69; 299: J. Bland (Eng), 69, 69, 69, 69; 300: J. Bland (Eng), 69, 69, 69, 69.

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THE cabinet will

asked on Thursday

approve the abolition

the community char

forms that will signal

the end of many coun

councils in England

Wales.

Michael Heseltine, the

environment secretary

will present to the cabinet

communities committee

communities review

proposals that would

sweep away one of the

pillars of local government

These would be im

plemented at the an

time as the poll tax

is fully introduced.

In order to effect the

part of a new property tax, a

residence is proposing that

central grants to councils

should be increased sharp

ly while all or part of the cost

of education and the police s

ervices would be borne central

ly. Heseltine says he is

right that the burden on loc

al authorities would be eased

by £1 billion under the plan. T

figure represents the contrib

ution of local authorities make

ing the education budget.

Michael Heseltine, the en

vironment minister, is

INSIDE

Child abuse

reports rise

Child abuse reports have

risen 20 per cent in the

last 12 months, according

to a survey by the Nat

ional Society for the Preven

tion of Child Abuse. The

survey, which was carried

out last month, Official

figures for the charity's annu

al report put back at critics

that it had overstated its

claims. Page 2

Paris triumph

The work Paris has

triumphantly staged in its

world's capital of style

and imagination and